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SKETCHES

OF

MEN OF PROGRESS.

BY

JAMES PARTON. BAYARD TAYLOR. HON. AMOS KENDALL.  
REV. E. D. MAYO. J. ALEXANDER PATTEN.  
AND OTHER WRITERS.

EMBELLISHED WITH HANDSOME STEEL PORTRAITS  
BY RITCHIE, PERINE, AND HALL.

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No species of writing seems more worthy of cultivation than biography — *Langhorne*.

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*E. H. Chapin.*

## EDWIN HUBBELL CHAPIN.

BY DR. MAYO.



EDWIN HUBBELL CHAPIN was born in Union Village, Washington County, N. Y., December 29, 1814. The county of Washington might be selected as a model county to illustrate the working of republican institutions in the United States, being originally peopled by a substantial race of Scotchmen, and remarkable for the intelligence, prosperity, and progressive spirit of its people. The academical education of Dr. Chapin was received at a seminary in Bennington, Vt., and his early tastes are said to have inclined to the study of law. From this he was soon attracted to the associate editorship of the *Magazine and Advocate*, one of the early Universalist newspapers in Utica, and at the age of twenty-three, after some experience of preaching, commenced his ministry as pastor of the Independent Christian Church of Richmond, Virginia. Although successful in his Richmond ministry, he soon discovered that the old Virginia of thirty years ago was a field too limited for his professional aspirations and order of mind. On a journey to the North, in September, 1839, he was invited to preach in the Universalist church in Charlestown, Massachusetts, whose pulpit had recently become vacant by the death of the lamented Thomas F. King.

In his first sermon, on "Faith," preached in this pulpit, his congregation were electrified by a most touching tribute to their beloved pastor, and no time was lost in securing so worthy a successor.

For six years Mr. Chapin was minister of the church in Charlestown, and rose daily in reputation, both as a preacher and a stirring orator in many of the reforms of the day. His efforts in the cause of temperance, Odd-fellowship, and education, were marked

and widely influential. Indeed, his eloquent voice never refused to obey the call of humanity. These years were doubtless the most fruitful in self-culture of the whole period of his ministry. Among his parishioners and constant hearers were the eminent historian and journalist, Richard Frothingham, Professor Tweed, perhaps the most careful literary critic of New England, and Thomas Starr King, just then contemplating an entrance into the ministry. It was a liberal education to preach for six years to such a congregation, and never were pastor and people more happily adjusted to each other. The writer of this sketch remembers the first discourse of Mr. Chapin to which he listened, in company with Starr King, as one of those eventful evenings which tell so powerfully on the future career of a minister of Christ. At this time it was his privilege frequently to listen to sermons and addresses from the same source, which have never been surpassed in the most brilliant days of the doctor's metropolitan ministry.

From this enviable position Mr. Chapin removed to the School Street Church, in Boston, in 1846, becoming associate pastor with Hosca Ballou, and in 1848 made his final removal to New York, where he has been known as pastor of the Fourth Universalist Church for the last twenty years. He began his New York ministry in the church in Murray Street, which soon overflowed. The society then purchased a beautiful church on Broadway, originally occupied by Dr. Bellows. In this large and central audience-room for many years Mr. Chapin gathered a Sunday congregation largely representative of the best elements of progressive-Northern life. We have heard the most eminent of American statesmen declare that their visits to New York were often timed to include a Sunday of Dr. Chapin's preaching. Here, at the American center of theological and popular influence, Dr. Chapin entered largely into the profession of lecturer, and soon became as eminent in the lecture-room as he had already become in the pulpit and on the platform.

In the midst of this exhausting life of public speaking, his liter



ary pursuits were never forgotten. His library of English literature is probably one of the most valuable private collections in America, and no man better knows where to find or more keenly to appreciate the treasures of our language. In 1856 he received from Harvard University the degree of D. D., although he never had enjoyed the opportunity of a collegiate education.

Under this accumulated weight of professional duty, the health of Dr. Chapin a few years since became seriously impaired. A timely journey to Europe, his second foreign tour, restored his health, and on his return he wisely determined to concentrate his future efforts chiefly upon his ministry. The profession of metropolitan preacher and lecturer can not be many years combined in safety. Parker, Mann, and King had already fallen under the double professional work, and the country has reason to be grateful that Chapin, Beecher, and Bellows at nearly the same time heeded the prudential warning and withdrew their forces within the ample field of a broad Christian ministry.

Three years ago the Fourth Universalist Society made its final removal to the spacious and elegant church on Fifth Avenue, where Dr. Chapin now ministers in the fullness of his great preaching powers.

Like every man of commanding genius, Dr. Chapin struck the key-note of his great success in his earlier ministry, and has done little but develop his own truly original method of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One of his great sermons is the most complete answer to that shallow criticism which declares that the day of the preacher has passed. We venture to say that during the last quarter of a century a score of American preachers have raised the sermon to a higher point of effectiveness as a means of popular influence than it ever before attained; and in his own peculiar sphere Dr. Chapin has no rival in this illustrious company. The grand element of his success as a preacher is a large, generous, and inspiring manhood which envelops and interfuses his entire discourse, and compels the

most indifferent hearer to acknowledge that a true-hearted and large-minded man is talking to him, in dead earnest, on the greatest themes of life. It is this manhood, in which the child-like spirit is so wonderfully blended with strength and volume, that tunes the wonderful voice and informs the earnest features, and lifts both speaker and hearer to the loftiest heights of religious exaltation. The intellect of Dr. Chapin is not logical, and to an over-critical mind would be regarded too neglectful of details, but it has the decisive test of genius in looking every subject into grand proportions. The first statement of his theme is always so comprehensive and suggestive, that the hearer might then go away feeling that he had never before conceived the vast relations of the most ordinary fact of the Christian life.

But perhaps the crowning splendor of his genius is that power of imagination, without which no man can become a great Christian preacher, and in this exalted faculty he stands pre-eminent among American divines. By this power he penetrates the secret places of human nature, reads the motives, feels the temptations, and knows the spiritual conflicts of his fellow-men. When blended with his power of pathos, it is impossible to withstand the effect of its tender and touching appeals. When it rises to its loftiest range of observation over human experience, social and national affairs, and the great common interest of humanity, its effect is truly indescribable. Dr. Chapin is not the favorite minister of that cool, deliberate class who believe in salvation according to Whately and Blair. One thrilling passage upsets their coolness, melts their logical theories, and throws them into the distressing posture of bowing like a bulrush before a tempest of the Word of God. But he will always be the favorite preacher of the great class of Americans in whom the human, religious, and executive faculties are pre-eminent—the class which controls American affairs. Dr. Chapin, like his lamented friend, Thomas Starr King, has always borne himself amid theological disputes of the day in a manner most creditable to his character of Christian consecration, and saving common sense; no man

is more familiar with that whole field of critical radical speculation in which so many of the lesser lights of theology, science, and literature have gone out through skepticism to the blankness of atheistic negation. His brilliant imagination and tender affections have never been seduced into the advocacy of any tendency to an ultraritualism and conservatism. His entire manhood instinctively gravitates to the person of Jesus Christ, and his whole ministry is an eloquent commentary on Christ's law of love. Rarely indulging in technical, theological discussions, averse to every form of disputation or controversy, not distinguished as an executive manager in ecclesiastical affairs, his preaching is theological, reasonable, practical in the highest sense, always setting before men those few central ideas and principles of the Christian life from which all just, holy, sweet, and successful living must naturally descend. Thus, while always maintaining his denominational relations, there is no American preacher to whom Christian people of every sect more gladly listen, who is more powerful to reach and move the great masses of his countrymen who are outside of any division of the Christian Church.









*William Cullen Bryant*

## WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

With the exception of some modifications and additions, we acknowledge our indebtedness to the *Eclectic Magazine*, Rev. W. H. Bidwell, editor, for this sketch.



R. BRYANT is now the veteran, *par excellence*, of American letters—one of the honored few who, in the early years of the century, rocked the cradle of our literature, and have lived to see it attain its present stalwart and manly, if somewhat rugged, growth. But this is not all. For Mr. Bryant has the rare distinction not only of having assisted at the birth of a new literature, but of having, as poet, critic, orator, and journalist, contributed to the development of every department in which American thought has since illustrated itself, except those of philosophy and jurisprudence. Unlike most of those who entered the field with him, he has kept up with the age—borne onward upon its current, not stranded upon “some green and grassy shore,” which, however pleasant when the century was young, is now far in the wake of our intellectual progress. It is peculiar to Mr. Bryant, among those early pioneers of our letters, that his genius sought no models, ran into no ruts, and ignored the evanescent themes of political and social life. From the first, he drew his inspiration from Nature, and the profounder moral problems which challenge the thoughts of humanity; and as long as man shall seek solace from the bosom of “our common mother,” the poems of Bryant will remain a guide and a consolation. Most of the writings of those who were the contemporaries of his youth have passed into the “storehouse of oblivion,” which Time has prepared for so much of literary endeavor: but with the growth and elevation of our intellectual culture, Bryant has but obtained a larger, more secure, and more

speaks, in all its pleasing appointments and picturesque surroundings, the cultivated tastes of its worthy master. It is here that he is delighted to retreat and give himself up to that loving communion with Nature which has kept his spirit fresh through all the turmoil of politics and journalism; it is here, under trees of his own planting, and surrounded by rural prospects of which he knows every forest hem, every break in the line of the horizon, every bush and flower by the wayside,—and their habits, periods, and varieties as well,—that he finds the quiet he loves so much, and girds himself for his powerful intellectual efforts.

Mr. Bryant was born at Cummington, Massachusetts, on the 3d of November, 1794, and is now in his seventy-seventh year. The portrait herewith shows the venerable poet as he looks now; with “all his honors,” and the snows of nearly fourscore winters “thick upon him.”






Very truly yours  
John W. Hoffman



## GOV. JOHN T. HOFFMAN.

The following sketch we extract from "Life Sketches," published by S. C. Hutchins & H. H. Boone, Albany.

JOHN T. HOFFMAN, twenty-third Governor of the State of New York, was born at the village of Sing Sing on the 10th day of January, 1828. His grandfather, Philip Livingston Hoffinan, was a resident of Columbia County, where he was educated to the law. He married Helena Kissam, a lady whose family was well known throughout the State.

Adrian Kissam Hoffinan, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Columbia County. The family subsequently moved to Montgomery County, where he studied medicine. After completing his studies, Dr. Hoffinan married the daughter of Dr. John Thompson of Saratoga County, and removed to Westchester County, where he entered upon the practice of his profession. He is still living and is widely known and universally respected, both for his skill as a physician and for his character as a man.

John Thompson Hoffinan, as a boy, displayed the germs of those qualities which, ripening in the growth of later years, have rendered his name famous.

The Rev. Dr. Prime, editor of the *New York Observer*, who was the Governor's first teacher, spoke, a few years ago, in the following terms of his former pupil:—

"While yet a student he won some reputation as a public speaker. But his calm self-possession, independence of association, and deliberate judgment, with great firmness of adherence to conclusions reached after careful examination, were qualities so rarely developed in a young man that he early attracted attention as one in whom high trusts could be safely confided. . . . I take no credit to myself for his career. The man at the head of the school, my father, had exalted ideas of justice, and inculcated in his daily instructions those notions of stern integrity, the inflexibility of principle, the abstract duty of doing right irrespective of expediency, that go to make up the character of every really great man."

With such instruction at school, and with Christian precepts and worthy examples to guide his footsteps at home, young Hoffman's early boyhood was passed.

At the age of fifteen he entered the Junior class of Union College. This was in 1843, at a time when Dr. Nott was in the full enjoyment of his well-deserved fame. The practical lessons of that sound old philosopher produced a lasting impression on the mind of the youthful collegian, who, in despite of uncertain health, which compelled him to suspend his college course for one year, made rapid progress in his studies. He was graduated with the honors of the institution in 1846. His oration on that occasion rose so much above the ordinary level of such efforts as to be noteworthy. He chose for his theme "Sectional Prejudices," and in the treatment of the subject he displayed a breadth of reasoning power and a knowledge of political science quite remarkable.

With the ardor of boyhood he espoused then the cause of Democracy, and to its principles he has remained steadfast always.

After leaving college, Mr. Hoffman commenced the study of law in the office of General Aaron Ward and Judge Albert Lockwood at Sing Sing.

Mr. Hoffman's political career began before he had attained his majority. In the year 1848, at the age of twenty, he was made a member of the State Central Committee by the Convention of Hunker or Hard-Shell Democracy. That year will long be remembered in the political history of the State. Martin Van Buren's candidacy for the office of President divided the Democracy of New York, causing strong and bitter feeling between his supporters and those of the regular nominee, Lewis Cass, and resulting in the overwhelming triumph of the Whig party. Taylor carried the State by a plurality of about 100,000, and Hamilton Fish was elected Governor—this, in face of the fact that the aggregate Democratic vote exceeded that of the Whigs. Pending the canvass, the State Committee, of which Mr. Hoffman was a member, put forth "An Address to the people," in which the claims of their

principles and of their candidates were advocated with marked ability. Although not then a voter, Mr. Hoffman took the stump for Cass and Walworth and did effective service as a speaker.

On the 10th of January, 1849,—his twenty-first birth-day,—Mr. Hoffman was admitted to the bar.

In October of that year he removed to New York, where, soon after, he formed a law partnership with the late Samuel M. Woodruff and Judge William H. Leonard, the firm name being Woodruff, Leonard & Hoffman.

For ten years Mr. Hoffman devoted himself to the practice of his profession, and so marked was his success that in 1859 he was urged by some of the most prominent citizens of New York for the position of United States District Attorney. But President Buchanan objected to him on account of his youth, and Judge Roosevelt was appointed to the place.

In the year 1860 Mr. Hoffman was nominated for Recorder of the city of New York, and after a spirited canvass, was elected to that position. In this instance the office sought the man! Mr. Hoffman had declined to have his name presented as a candidate, but he was, nevertheless, nominated by the Tammany Convention, on the second formal ballot. At the election which followed, he was the only candidate on the Tammany ticket who, without the support of other organizations, was chosen by the people. He entered upon his duties as Recorder on the 1st of January, 1861. None so young as he had ever before filled the place, but none made a deeper and more favorable impression on the public mind.

His strict ideas of justice, tempered by the influence of a merciful heart; his ample legal acquirements, laid on the foundation of rare good sense; his unhalting firmness in the discharge of duty and his unquestioned integrity, combined to render him a good and upright judge. So firm a hold did he gain on the popular heart during his first term as Recorder, in the course of which he tried and sentenced many of those engaged in the famous riots of July, 1863, that the Republican Judiciary Convention named him,

on the 12th of October, 1863, for re-election. Tammany and Mozart also united on him; the newspaper press, regardless of party affiliations, indorsed him, and the people rallied enthusiastically to his support and forgot party prejudice in their admiration for an honest man. Under such flattering circumstances, he was again chosen Recorder by an almost unanimous vote of the electors.

On the 21st of November, 1865, John T. Hoffman was nominated for the office of Mayor of the city of New York by the Tammany Hall Democratic Convention. An effort to unite the then hostile factions of Tammany and Mozart had proved unsuccessful. Fernando Wood was nominated by the last-named organization, but declined in favor of John Hecker, the candidate of the Citizens' Association, who was warmly advocated by the *New York Tribune*. C. Godfrey Gunther, the then incumbent, had previously announced himself as a candidate for re-election, and his claims were indorsed by what was known as the McKeon Democracy. The Republicans saw in the division of the Democratic vote a chance for their own success. They nominated Marshall O. Roberts, and under his leadership they inaugurated a most vigorous campaign. At the election which followed 81,702 votes were cast, of which Judge Hoffman received 32,820; Mr. Roberts, 31,657; Mr. Hecker, 10,390, and Mayor Gunther, 6,758.

On the 1st of January, 1866, Mr. Hoffman entered upon his duties as Mayor. His administration of this office, joined with his previous reputation as Recorder, rendered his name familiar throughout the State, and during the summer he was frequently mentioned as the probable candidate of the Democracy for Governor.

The convention which assembled at Albany on the 11th of September was found to be composed of elements which had never before mingled in State politics. Old-Line Democrats joined hands with Conservative Republicans in an effort to unite all the varied forces which opposed the Radical course of Congress. One-third of the delegates had acted up to that time with the Republican



party. These were they who favored Andrew Johnson's policy and indorsed the Philadelphia Convention. They scarcely had faith, however, in the President's ability to carry his ideas to a successful issue. They were inclined to sing with Tennyson—

"'Tis true we have a faithful ally,  
But only the Devil knows what he means."

The Democrats had just lost their great organizing leader, Dean Richmond, and these accessions to their ranks, at such a juncture, did not promise to promote harmony. But the convention at Albany was a very large one, and it soon became apparent that, if a proper nomination were made for Governor, a vigorous campaign could be prosecuted with a reasonable hope of success. Under these circumstances, an unusual number of distinguished names were canvassed by the delegates. Sanford E. Church, Henry C. Murphy, William F. Allen, John T. Hoffman, Henry W. Slocum, John A. Dix, William Kelly, and others, were mentioned as available candidates. After a fair interchange of opinion it was found that a majority of the convention favored the choice of Mayor Hoffman, and on the second day he was nominated by acclamation, amidst the wildest enthusiasm. The convention then adjourned until afternoon, and on reassembling it was addressed by the candidate himself, who had been telegraphed for. His manly speech on that occasion made a lasting impression on the minds of the delegates, many of whom saw him then for the first time.

After his nomination, Mayor Hoffman canvassed the State, speaking at Elmira, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Binghamton, Brooklyn, New York, and other places. His earnest and convincing arguments were well received by the masses of the people everywhere. But frequent defeat had engendered amongst the Democrats a want of confidence in their ability to succeed, and the ill-timed tour of Johnson and Grant united the columns of the opposition, while it injured rather than benefited the party whose interests the President sought to subserve. But, notwithstanding



these disheartening circumstances, the election returns showed a decided gain in the Democratic vote over the preceding year. After the election, the Democrats awoke to the knowledge of the fact that, had they made more effort, they might have overcome the small majority by which Governor Fenton was re-elected. The lesson came late, but it was not altogether lost, as the next year's contest showed.

In the fall of 1867, Mayor Hoffman was chosen temporary Chairman of the Democratic State Convention, and delivered a speech on that occasion in which he enumerated with admirable succinctness the governing principles of the party, and defined its attitude in relation to current questions with remarkable clearness.

The ticket nominated by this Convention, headed by the Hon. Homer A. Nelson for Secretary of State, was successful at the ensuing election, its candidates being chosen by an average majority of over 47,000.

Mr. Hoffman's first term as Mayor was then drawing to a close. The popularity which he had gained in the discharge of his duties made his renomination a foregone conclusion. The Tammany Convention met on the Saturday evening succeeding the State election. A great concourse of people gathered around the hall and when it was announced that Hoffman had been nominated without a dissenting voice, the air rang with the cheers of the satisfied populace. In this canvass, Mayor Hoffman had two competitors, Fernando Wood, Mozart Democrat, and William A. Darling, Republican. The result of the election was significant. Hoffman carried every ward in the city. His vote was the largest ever given to any candidate in New York. His majority over both his competitors was nearly equal to the total vote of either. With this unmistakable indorsement he entered upon his second term as Mayor, on the first of January, 1868.

His third annual message as Mayor contained a reiteration of his views on the question of city government; which views were simply the old theory of Jefferson, that in local affairs the local

authorities should rule. Simple and sensible as this doctrine appears, its enunciation gained the Mayor some vigorous abuse from his political opponents.

But in despite of this, his popularity had grown so great that, when the National Democratic Convention met at New York in July, Mayor Hoffman's name was suggested by many of the Western delegates in connection with the Vice-Presidency. But he neither sought nor desired this honor, and the nomination of Governor Seymour for President placed it out of the power of the Convention to urge it upon him.

On the 13th of August, 1868, the State Committee, together with many prominent Democrats, met in Utica, for consultation. This meeting developed the fact that Mayor Hoffman would again be the Democratic candidate for Governor. The canvass of 1866 had brought him in contact with the people who, everywhere, felt that he had earned this honor, by the earnest and effective service he performed in that disastrous year.

When the convention met in September the name of Senator Murphy, who was Mayor Hoffman's chief competitor, was withdrawn and John T. Hoffman was, for a second time, nominated by acclamation, for Governor of the State of New York.

The Republicans had previously placed in nomination John A. Griswold, of Rensselaer. He was heralded as the builder of the first "Monitor," and this service, together with his record in Congress, was dwelt upon until considerable enthusiasm was aroused among the people in his behalf.

Both the candidates were young men, and the personal qualifications of each were admitted by all; but the canvass was one of peculiar bitterness. Victory seemed within the grasp of either party, and the pendency of the Presidential campaign roused partisans to extraordinary efforts and lent additional interest to the gubernatorial contest.

Mayor Hoffman canvassed the State in person and addressed the electors at many of the principal towns. His presence inspired

confidence among his supporters, and his speeches, although they evoked sharp criticism from Republican sources, cemented the elements of his strength.

At the election which occurred on the 2d of November, 1868, he was chosen Governor by a majority of 27,946. But opposition to Governor Hoffman did not cease with the closing of the polls. The cry of "fraud" was set up and persisted in by those whose candidates had met defeat. This cry is no new catch-word for politicians of either party; but the vigor with which it was pressed in this particular instance made it somewhat effective in producing a feeling of popular prejudice against Governor Hoffman.

How quickly this feeling was dissipated, after the Governor had taken his seat, is a matter of common knowledge. His bitterest enemies became his eulogists; Republican newspapers commended his course, and an opposition Legislature indorsed, almost without a dissenting voice, every veto message which he submitted to their consideration. These vetoes were numerous and were aimed chiefly at the evil system of special legislation which cumbers our statute-books with innumerable unnecessary laws that seldom prove beneficial except to individuals whose personal schemes are accomplished at the cost of the tax-payers.

In personal appearance Governor Hoffman is above the medium height and has a strong well-knit frame. His weight is, perhaps, a hundred and seventy pounds. His hair is dark and abundant; his forehead is broad and particularly developed in what phrenologists call the perceptive faculties; his eyes are of a deep brown color; his nose is large; his chin prominent, and his mouth shapely and indicative of firmness. He wears a full mustache but no beard. As a speaker he is plain, clear, and straightforward in manner as well as in matter. His voice is full, round and sonorous, but he practices few of the tricks of the orator and seldom embellishes his speeches with rhetorical flourishes. As a writer he is argumentative rather than imaginative, and his style is too analytical to be florid. He possesses, however, a certain happy power of

poetical description, which he displayed to good advantage in the Agricultural Address delivered by him before the Ulster County Fair, last September.

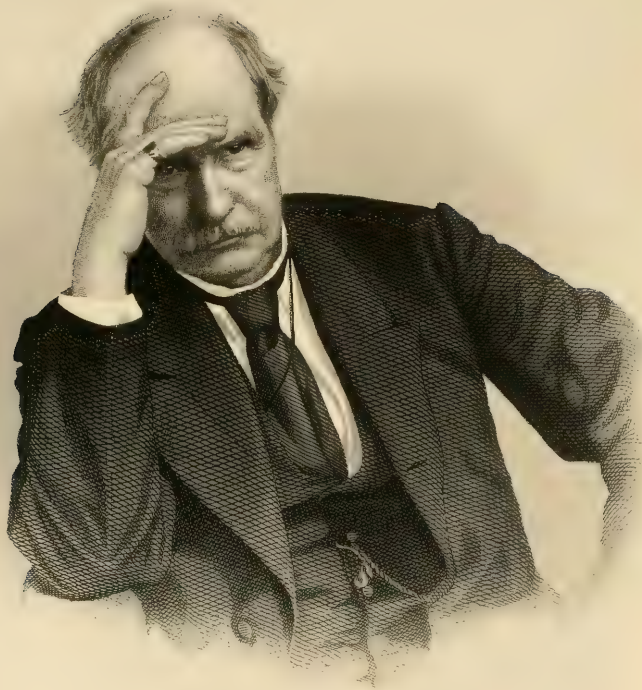
In his intercourse with his fellow-men Governor Hoffman is frank and genial; he has nothing of the demagogue's overbearing pomposity, and he is free from the sycophant's affectation of cordiality. He makes no promises which he does not keep; he holds out no false hopes to applicants for his favor; he is loyal to truth, and he cherishes his personal integrity as something more valuable than any political power.

NOTE.—Since the sketch of Governor HOFFMAN was written, he has been re-elected Governor of New York by 33,066 majority. His public career has been one of signal triumph; commencing at the bottom round of the political ladder, he has ascended step by step to the gubernatorial chair of the Empire State, and is now the prominent leader, and, to all appearances, the coming man of the Democracy in the next Presidential contest.









*Andrusky, A. C.*

## DAVID DUDLEY FIELD.

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DAVID DUDLEY FIELD was born, February 13, 1805, at Haddam, Connecticut, where his father, the Rev. David D. Field, was the Congregational minister. Instructed first in the common school of the district, he was at ten years of age transferred to his father's study, and there taught Latin, Greek, and Algebra. When he was fourteen his father removed to Stockbridge, Massachusetts, to become pastor of the church there. Here the son pursued his studies under the care of the Rev. Jared Curtis, then preceptor of the Stockbridge Academy, except that for one summer he attended Mr. Gleason's Academy at Lenox. In the fall of 1821, he entered Williams College. On leaving college he began the study of law in the office of Harmanus Bleecker, at Albany, and, after a few months with him, went to the city of New York, where he continued his studies in the office of Henry and Robert Sedgwick. He was admitted first as attorney and solicitor, in February, 1828, and a year or two after as counselor at law. Henry Sedgwick, in the mean time, having died, Mr. Field, on his admission as attorney, became the partner of Robert Sedgwick, and continued so until 1835. In May, 1836, he went to Europe, and for upward of a year traveled in various countries, returning to New York in July, 1837.

From that time to the present, he has been constantly at work as an advocate, writer, and citizen. His practice as counsel in the different courts has been very large. Among the celebrated cases in which he has been engaged, are those which grew out of the controversy respecting a railway on Broadway from 1852 to 1863; the Metropolitan Police controversy from 1857 to 1863; the Street

Commissioner controversy from 1857 to 1858; the Milligan case in 1867, respecting the constitutionality of military commissions for the trial of civilians; the Cummings case, respecting the constitutionality of test oaths; the McArdle case in 1868, respecting the constitutionality of the Reconstruction acts; the Erie Railway cases from 1868 to 1870; and the Albany and Susquehanna case from 1869 to 1870.

His career as a law-reformer began in 1839, by the publication of "A Letter to Gulian C. Verplanck, on the Reform of the Judicial System of New York." The following imperfect list of his published writings and speeches will show the variety and extent of his labors. Beginning with the letter to Mr. Verplanck, in 1839, we have, in 1839 and 1840, "Sketches over the Sea," Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, published in the *Democratic Review*. In 1851, he published an article in the *New York Review* on the writings of William Leggett. In 1842, he wrote a letter to John L. O'Sullivan, member of Assembly, on Law Reform, accompanied by drafts of bills, which were printed by the Legislature. In 1852-3-4-5, he wrote articles for the *Democratic Review*, on "The Rhode Island Question," "American Names," "Cost Johnson's Forlorn Hope," "Duer on Insurance," "Study and Practice of the Law," "Law of Progress of the Race," "Journey of a Day," "The Oregon Question," "British Reviews on Oregon," and two poems, "King of Men," and "Greylock." In 1846 he published a pamphlet on the "Reorganization of the Judiciary;" in 1847, one upon the question "What shall be done with the Practice of the Courts," and "Some Suggestions respecting the Rules to be established by the Supreme Court." From 1847 to 1865 he was engaged in the work of codification for the State of New York, the result of which is contained in nine volumes, the 1st, being the "Code of Civil Procedure;" the 2d, the "Code of Criminal Procedure;" the 3d, the "Political Code;" the 4th, the "Penal Code;" the 5th, the "Civil Code;" the 6th, the "Book of Forms;" the 7th, 8th, and 9th, containing the successive drafts of these codes, and

ten different reports. These were accompanied by six auxiliary tracts: No. 1, on "The Administration of the Code;" No. 2, "Evidence on the Operation of the Code;" No. 3, "Codification of the Common Law;" No. 4, "Competency of Parties as Witnesses for Themselves;" No. 5, A Short Manual of Pleading under the Code," and No. 6, "The Completion of the Code."

His public addresses began with an address at Tammany Hall, in 1842, on the nomination of Robert H. Morris for mayor. Next came a speech at the Broadway Tabernacle, in 1844, on the Annexation of Texas. This was followed by the famous "Secret Circular," and the "Joint Letter," which it preceded. In 1847, he attended the River and Harbor Convention at Chicago, and made a speech in favor of a strict construction of the Constitution in that respect. The same year he was chosen delegate to the Syracuse Convention, where the Democratic party was split into two over the question of slavery extension, and on that occasion he introduced the famous resolution, long afterward known as the "Corner-Stone," which was for years displayed at the head of the leading columns of the Albany *Atlas*, as the last and rallying cry of the Free Democracy.

It was in these words:—

"*Resolved*, That while the Democracy of New York, represented in this convention, will faithfully adhere to all the compromises of the Constitution, and maintain all the reserved rights of the States, they declare, since the crisis has arrived when that question must be met, their uncompromising hostility to the extension of slavery into territory now free, or which may be hereafter acquired by any action of the government of the United States,"

About the same time he made a speech at the demonstration in New York for Italy and the reforms of Pius the Ninth. In 1848, he wrote the address for the mass meeting of New York Democrats to hear the report of the delegates to Baltimore, and afterward acted in support of Mr. Van Buren's nomination to the Presidency. He spoke at the Park meeting, New York, and at meetings in Stockbridge and Springfield, Massachusetts, in Faneuil Hall, Boston, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Bangor, Maine, and



he wrote the address of the Democratic-Republican Committee to the electors of the State. In 1852, he made an argument before a committee of the New York Common Council, on the proposed Broadway Railway, and in the winter of 1853, before a committee of the Legislature. Then followed in 1854, a speech at the Broadway Tabernacle, in favor of religious liberty for Americans abroad; in 1855, a speech as chairman of a dinner to J. Hosford Smith, United States Consul at Beyrout; in 1856, speeches in support of Fremont, at Philadelphia, at Poughkeepsie, at Troy, and at Stuyvesant Institute, New York; an address at the Albany Law School on Law Reform; the address and resolutions of a mass meeting at Syracuse; and the address of the State Committee.

We can only give the subjects and times of the subsequent speeches and addresses: In 1857, at the meeting in Bleeker Buildings, New York, to ratify the Republican State nominations; in the New York Common Pleas, upon a trial against the *Churchman* for libel; in the New York Supreme Court, upon the constitutionality of the new Police Act; and the address of the State convention.—In 1858, at the demonstration in New York, for the Atlantic Telegraph; and the address of the Democratic State convention.—In 1859, on the opening of the Law School at Chicago; before the joint committee of the two houses of the Legislature on the Parallel Railway; at the mass meeting in Wall Street in favor of Mr. Havermeyer's election to the mayoralty; and on the death of Theodore Sedgwick.—In 1860, at Philadelphia, on the danger of throwing the election of President into Congress; at the Republican festival in the Eighteenth Ward of New York, February 22d; and at the New England dinner.—In 1861, at the Peace Conference in Washington; at Union Square, New York, on the uprising of the people; at the meeting of ladies in the Cooper Institute; at the Opdyke ratification meeting; and the address to the Twentieth Massachusetts Regiment passing through New York.—In 1862, address of the loyal citizens of New York, at the Union Square meeting; and speeches at the ratification meeting in the Eighteenth

Ward, and at Owego, Elmira, Geneva, Norwich, Oswego, and Greene, in support of General Wadsworth's nomination as governor.—In 1863, at the mass meeting in the Cooper Institute; at the complimentary dinner to Governor Morton, of Indiana; at the meeting on the anniversary of the fall of Sumter; at the mass meeting in Madison Square; at Wilmington, Delaware; and at the banquet to the officers of the Russian fleet.—In 1864, at the dinner to Mr. Romero, Mexican minister; at the meeting of the merchants and bankers held at the Exchange before the election; at the celebration in Cooper Institute of Mr. Lincoln's re-election; at the banquet in the Metropolitan Hotel for the same purpose; and upon the occasion of the death of William Curtis Noyes.—In 1865, in the Weed libel suit; on the conclusion of the war; and on the death of Mr. Lincoln.—In 1866, at the meeting in support of President Johnson's veto message; on the constitutionality of military commissions, in the Milligan case; on the constitutionality of test oaths, in the Cummings case; and in the autumn of the same year an address before the British Social Science Association at Manchester, England, on an "International Code;" and an address before the Law Amendment Society, London, on the "New York Code."

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in the civil war; and in December, spoke at the banquet given to Professor Morse.—January 14, 1869, he made a speech at the banquet given to Mr. James W. Gerard, on his retirement from the bar; on the 25th, he presided at the festival in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of Burns' birth; and later at the annual dinner of the alumni of Williams College; and in October, he delivered an address on an "International Code," before the American Social Science Association, in New York.—In 1870, he again presided at the annual dinner of the Williams alumni, and at the Burns' festival; made an address on judicial abuses before the State Judiciary Committee, and read a lecture on "Proportional Representation," at the Lowell Institute, Boston.

During all this time, he has not relaxed his efforts in promoting social and political progress. He helped to procure the nomination of Mr. Van Buren, in 1848, and of Mr. Lincoln in 1860, and was active in the Presidential elections of those years, as well as in the canvass of 1856 for Fremont. In politics he has always been a Democrat, in the sense in which he understands Democracy. His position is defined in a letter which he wrote to the Albany *Atlas* and *Argus* on the 22d of May, 1856:—

"Though I have not hitherto acted with the Republican party, my sympathies are of course with the friends of freedom wherever they may be found. I despise equally the fraud which uses the name of Democracy to cheat men of their rights; the cowardice which retracts this year what it professed and advocated the last; and the falsehood which affects to teach the right of the people of the Territories to govern themselves, while it imposes on them Federal governors and judges and indicts them for treason against the Union because they make a constitution and laws which they prefer, and collect forces from the neighboring States and the Federal army to compel them to submission."

He has written many articles on current topics for the newspapers; had a public correspondence with Professor Morse and Reverdy Johnson on the Peace Conference and the war; was an active member of the National War Committee raised in New York; and, during the riots of 1863, did such service as to receive the following commendation from the mayor of New York, Mr. Opdyke, in the history of his mayoralty: "To many eminent private citi-

zens also my acknowledgments are due for most valuable services, and to none more than to David Dudley Field, Esq., whose courage, energy, and vigilance were unsurpassed and without abatement from the beginning to the end of the riots."

He was last year president of the American Free-Trade League. He is now president of the Personal Representation Society of New York, and his latest address was the one on "Proportional Representation." He is at present engaged in the preparation of the draft of an international code, to which he has devoted much of the last four years, and in which he is aiming not only to set forth the existing rules of international law, but to suggest such modifications as seem to be required by the present state of civilization.









*C. H. McFormitt*

## CYRUS HALL MCCORMICK.

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HERE are few tasks more difficult than to write the life of an inventor. The world is quick to appreciate the exploits and herald the fame of the successful soldier. His laurels are won upon a field toward which every eye is turned with intense interest, and upon whose issue the destiny of a nation palpably hangs. A single masterly movement of his columns kindles a thousand bonfires, and makes his name live in the memorial-bronze or the stately shaft. Not so, however, with the inventor. "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war;" but the victories of peace are silent, and the victor must often be content with the reflection that cheered the immortal Kepler, "my work is done; it can well wait a century for its readers, since God waited full six thousand years before there came a man capable of comprehending and admiring his work."

Happily, in the case of the man whose name is now before us as foremost in the history of agricultural invention and progress during the present age, the quiet achievement of his early life, and the arduous toils of his riper years, have, in his world-wide fame as well as his commercial success, already received in a measure their merited reward.

It is related of Cromwell, by the historian Macaulay, that when he sat for his last portrait, it was with the stern but noble injunction to Sir Peter Lely—"Paint all my scars and my wrinkles or I will not pay you a farthing;" and, in undertaking the present memoir, it is with no desire to offer encomium, but simply to interpret living facts for the benefit of the living.

It was Virginia that, in 1780, in response to the appeal of Con-

gress, opened her princely hand and gave away the Northwestern Territory to the Union, and it was the same old State that afterward gave to the Northwest the Reaper by which its unequaled development has been effected.

Mr. McCormick was born February 15, 1809, at "Walnut Grove" (the family residence), in Rockbridge County, Virginia. His father, Robert McCormick, and his mother, whose maiden name was Mary Ann Hall, were both of Scotch-Irish descent, and natives, the former of Rockbridge, the latter of Augusta County. The father was a farmer, owning several farms, with saw and grist mills, and having shops for blacksmithing, carpentering, machinery, etc., in which his own mechanical ingenuity and that of young Cyrus found scope for exercise and experiment.

The son did not have the advantages of a collegiate education. His studies were limited to the English branches, such as could be obtained in the common schools of the country—"the old field school," sometimes called—an institution, however, which, if judged by its fruits, did a great work in training some of Virginia's most elegant writers and forcible orators, as Patrick Henry, Henry Clay, and others.

The old Virginia school did its work upon the subject of this notice, not without co-operative agencies. The workshop is, to a boy that thinks, an arena in which he is to put into practice all that he has learned. The youth who ferrets out the mechanism of a locomotive and constructs one for his amusement, if you choose, though it be only a plaything to run across his yard, has done more for his education than if he had mastered a book in geometry; and in the end he has more mental muscle and sinew to show for it. When Cyrus was fifteen years old he employed his inventive gift in the construction of a "*cradle*," which he used in cutting with the harvestmen in the field.

During his son's youth, the elder McCormick busied himself with the invention of several valuable machines, upon some of which he obtained letters patent, embracing thrashing, hydraulic, hemp-break-

ing, etc.; and in 1816 he contrived a machine for reaping which would cut the grain when standing up straight, but which proved wholly unavailable when the grain was in a matted or tangled state. His experiment was made on the plan of having a number of vertical cylinders, 8 or 10 inches in diameter, placed in line at right angles to the line of draft of the machine, which cylinders, in their revolutions, gathered the standing grain to stationary serrated *cutting hooks*, and when the stalks were severed on these hooks the grain was carried by leather straps to the side of the machine and delivered *in swath*.

"At the commencement of the harvest of 1831 Mr. Robert McCormick made another trial of his machine, again without a practical success, and when, being satisfied that his principle of operation could not succeed, he laid it aside and abandoned the further prosecution of his idea. His son, who had this time been witnessing his father's experiments with much interest, then perceiving the difficulties in the way of his father's success—while never himself having seen, or heard of, any other experiments or principles tried but his father's in connection with *grain reaping by horse-power*—devoted himself most laboriously to the discovery of a principle of operation upon which to carry out the great object for which his father had labored both mentally and physically for fifteen years.

"Finding, as his father also had found, that the difficulty of separating the grain to be cut between each two of the cylinders, when in a fallen or tangled state, was insurmountable; and that, therefore, to succeed, the grain must be cut in a body without such separation, except at the line of division between the swath to be cut and the grain to be left standing (at which point the ascertained difficulty of separating had to be overcome), the question first to be solved was how that was possible. In his reflections and reasoning on this point it occurred to him that to effect the cutting of the grain by a cutting instrument, a certain amount of *motion* was only necessary, which was demonstrated by the action on the grain of the *cradle* then in common use. The next thought was that while the motion forward as drawn by horses was *not* sufficient, a lateral motion must at the same time be communicated to the cutting instrument, which, combined with the forward motion, would be sufficient to effect the cutting process as the machine advanced upon the grain. How then was this to be effected?

"Two different methods occurred to the mind of the inventor before he undertook to put either to the test of a trial in the field. One was that of a revolving wheel placed horizontally (as the wheel of a cart) and drawn forward against the grain, while caused to revolve rapidly on its axis, having a cutting edge placed on its periphery.

"Not satisfied however with this idea—many objections and difficulties in the way of its success presenting themselves to the mind of Mr. McCormick—his next idea, which proved to be the foundation upon which his great invention was finally based, was that of communicating by a crank the requisite lateral reciprocating motion to a straight cutting blade, placed at right angles to the line of draught of the machine. This first principle he immediately put to the test by (himself) constructing in a temporary manner the required gear-wheels and frame-work, and applying it to the cutting of grain, when the *cutting*,



then by a smooth edge, was well done, but when he immediately discovered the importance of supporting the grain at the edge of the blade by *guard-fingers*, with which he united the *serrated edge* to the cutting blade; and also the importance of having a device for gathering the grain to the cutting apparatus. This done he at once applied himself to supplying what seemed now required to make a working machine, and soon originated and placed over the cutting apparatus the revolving and *gathering reel*, for gathering and throwing back the grain, and a frame-work in rear of the cutting blade, which he called the *platform*, for receiving the grain as cut by the machine.

"With these important original principles combined, and with a vigorous effort, he constructed a machine, placing it on one *driving-wheel* at the stubble side of the machine, which operated the gear-wheels and crank, upon which the main frame of the machine, containing the cog-wheels, was placed, and from which the platform was extended to the *grain side*, then supported by a slide, the *wheel* at the side having been substituted the next year.

"From the main frame of this machine, and outside of the standing grain, projected a pair of *shafts* within which it was drawn by one horse. And on the opposite side of the platform was constructed the *divider* for separating the grain to be cut from that to be passed by the machine.

"From this machine the cut grain was drawn from the platform and deposited on the ground *at the side* by a man with a rake, walking on the ground."

"The child is father to the man," and it may have been the imperfections of his father's machine that first suggested to the younger McCormick the necessity of a construction upon a principle wholly different.

As early as 1831, Mr. McCormick, then in the twenty-second year of his age, made the invention which has given his name a world-wide reputation, and which is now accomplishing the work of considerably more than a million harvesters. In 1831, the Reaper triumphed in the harvesting of several acres of oats. The following year it cut fifty acres of wheat.

For several years, while experimenting with, exhibiting its operation in the field, and working the Reaper himself, though operating well in his hands, he deemed it best—while still undergoing important improvements—to postpone its *sale*.

In the mean time Mr. McCormick, with a disposition to do business for himself, and thus try his fortune on his own responsibility—while his Reaper could not yet be relied upon as a source of profit (and he was indeed advised by his father not so to depend upon it)—intimated to his father that, if approved by him, any

thing he might be disposed to give him in that connection would be gratefully accepted. Whereupon his father gave him a farm, and stocked it in a moderate way ready for business, and the son farmed it for one year. About that time an opportunity was presented to engage in an iron-smelting business, which seemed to promise larger profits than farming, and soon Mr. McCormick entered into it. But during the financial revulsion of about 1837, and in connection with some misfortunes in the working of their smelting furnace, his business partner, foreseeing the coming storm, covered his private property with deeds of trust in favor of his friends; and when, subsequently, failure overtook the firm, the ruin fell mainly upon the inventor. This failure, like similar failures, proved, perhaps, a "blessing in disguise." Stripping himself of all his capital, Mr. McCormick met and liquidated all the liabilities he had incurred. Applying himself then to his work with renewed vigor, in 1839 the sale and introduction of the Reaper into general use commenced, and its reputation extended rapidly into the great centers of agricultural interests and improvement.

In 1845 he removed to Cincinnati, resolved to devote himself to the one thing of establishing himself in the then emporium of the grain-growing West, and in widening the introduction of his machines.

They were first patented in 1834, but in 1845 he obtained a second patent for several valuable improvements in them. In 1846-7-8 he had also some of his machines manufactured in Brockport, New York, the makers paying him a "royalty" on all they sold, and taking, as security for advances, farmers' orders for machines, as procured by Mr. McCormick.

In 1847 a third patent was granted him for improvements still more valuable; and in 1858 another valuable patent was granted to him, and still another to himself and brothers. Foreseeing prior to 1847 that Chicago was to become the center of the agricultural empire of the West, from its commanding position at the head of lake navigation, Mr. McCormick then made this city his



home and prosecuted his enterprise far and wide in radiating lines. In 1848, seven hundred of his machines were made and sold. The year 1849 saw the annual sale of the McCormick Reapers and Mowers reach the high figure of fifteen hundred. Since then the number sold has regularly increased, until now the annual sales exceed ten thousand, including what are termed plain reapers, combined reapers and mowers, and plain mowing machines—employing for several years past, in their manufacture, from five to six hundred men, with a large amount of machinery adapted particularly to this work. The demand for the invention is perpetually multiplied in proportion as its great labor and grain saving merits become the subject of inquiry and investigation.

At the commencement of Mr. McCormick's manufacturing business in the Northwest, to effect sales he found it necessary to sell his machines *on time* and with a *guaranty* of their performance, which system he has continued to the present time, thus enabling purchasers not only to prove the value of the article they purchase, but to realize in advance of payment a large proportion of the purchase-price of the machine.

About the year 1850, the two brothers of Mr. McCormick, William S. and Leander J., both younger than himself, were introduced into his business at Chicago. In 1859 they were associated with him as partners in the manufacturing, and have rendered important assistance in the business—the former at the head of the office department, and the latter at the head of the manufacturing department.

In the death of his brother William S., in 1865, Mr. McCormick sustained a great loss. He was a man of rare excellence of character and superior business abilities. His loss was irreparable.

In 1859, the Hon. Reverdy Johnson, in an argument before the Commissioner of Patents, *from testimony taken in the case*, said, that the McCormick Reaper had already "contributed an annual income to the whole country of fifty-five millions of dollars at least, which must increase through all time."

The quantity of land which can be cultivated, by using these machines, is proved to be doubled, and most proof goes higher still. Each of these machines has paid its price to the owner; the saving of the cost of reaping is at least seventy-five cents an acre, in labor alone. It has been again and again proved that the saving of grain alone, as compared with "cradling," is from one to two bushels in an acre cut. These facts have been established in the courts by a large number of witnesses, and accepted as evidence.

From the long time and perseverance necessary to improve and perfect this implement, in consequence of the great variety of situations in which the crop to be cut is found—green, ripe; wet, dry; tall, short; standing, fallen; straight, tangled; and on rough as well as smooth ground—and from the short period in each year during which experiments could be made (so different from other improvements), it will be observed that the first patent of Mr. McCormick (in 1834) expired (in 1848) before he had accomplished much financially with his invention (its extension having been refused at the Patent Office and by Congress), and that the important original principles of the invention were thus early thrown open to public competition, leaving to him only the protection of his subsequent patents. In this way, at that early day commenced a competition in the Reaper and Mower business, with the various modifications in construction (made on the same general principles) that the world of intellect employed in the business would be likely to work out, which has been kept up to the present time. With the free use, also, of the important improvements covered by the expired patents of 1845 and 1847 other manufacturers have been and are making large numbers of these machines throughout all parts of this country and the world: so that, at present, there are annually added to the supply in use more than 100,000 of these machines.

On the ground of the *great value to the public* of McCormick's invention, the opposition to the extension of his patents thus deprived him of those advantages of protection against competition which have been granted to every other prominent inventor in the

country, and without regard to the greater delays in his case in perfecting the invention, consequent upon the limited time in the harvest season of each year for experimenting.

The continued success of Mr. McCormick, under such circumstances, in the manufacture and sale of *his invention* during a period of thirty years, declining from the beginning to sell patent rights to others, improving and patenting in detail from time to time as required, and retaining throughout the *first position* in the business, is perhaps without a parallel, and only second in merit to the invention itself.

Tillage was beautifully called by a great Roman writer, "the nursing breast of the State."

If this were felt so true in the little narrow peninsula of Italy, how much more forcibly does the figure apply to our vast and almost limitless country, on which the sun scarcely sets? One has only to glance over the physical geography of the United States, to see that the great interests of our people are agricultural and mining interests. And, in the development of material resources, the sphere of usefulness for Mr. McCormick's invention is beyond measurement.

An invention such as the Reaper is also of a general utility to science. A distinguished meteorologist, speaking of the barometer and thermometer, remarked that "each of these inventions had laid open a new world." As much may be said of the Reaper. No such mechanism can be given to any branch of human industry, without stimulating the energies and quickening the ardor of scientific investigation everywhere. Experiment and theory are inseparable. Science has many votaries whose adoration is unrestrained, and whose offerings at her shrine are of the costliest nature. But it is by utilizing the simplest elements of science, as Mr. McCormick has done, that she is elevated to her true dignity. This is, in Mr. Hallam's words, "to turn that which has been a blind veneration into a rational worship."

But to resume the history of the invention itself: a field

trial of the machine, with that of Obed Hussey, was made near Richmond, Virginia, in cutting wheat, in the harvest of 1843, in the presence of a large number of the most skillful farmers and agriculturists of that part of the State, most expert in the husbandman's art. A committee, selected by and from those assembled on this occasion, made a report in favor of the McCormick machine.

Mr. Hussey, whose invention was two years later than that of Mr. McCormick, was his only competitor in the business until about 1849 or 1850, when Manny in the West, and Seymour & Morgan in the East, commenced business—after the expiration of McCormick's first patent of 1834.

In 1845 the Gold Medal of the American Institute was awarded to Mr. McCormick for his invention.

At the World's Fair, in London, in 1851, the first international institution of the kind convened in history, after two trials in the field—the first on Mechi's celebrated "model farm," and the second on that of the Hon. Philip Pusey, M. P.—Mr. McCormick was awarded the "Council Medal" of the Exhibition, "for the most valuable article contributed to it," and its "originality and value"—awarded by the Council of Juries, and one of only four such medals awarded by the Exhibition to the United States.

The London *Times*, which, prior to the trial of the reaper in the field, had—in ridicule of it and of the meagreness of the American department of the Exhibition—characterized it as "a cross between an Astley chariot, a wheelbarrow, and a flying machine," writing *after* the trial, said it was "the most valuable article in the Exhibition, and of sufficient value alone to pay the whole expense of the Exhibition."

Mr. Hussey's machine competed at this Exhibition, himself being present.

In 1855, after a field trial with all other machines, the Grand Gold Medal was given to Mr. McCormick, at the Paris Exposition, for his Reaper and Mower, as furnishing "the type after which all others were made, as well as for the best operating machine in the



field." This was one of three such medals *only* that were awarded in the agricultural department of the Exposition.

In 1862, the Prize Medal was awarded the American inventor by the London International Exhibition.

The first prize, in the only field experiment made in England of all the rival machines at the Exhibition, was presented to Mr. McCormick.

The first prize was awarded to the McCormick Reaper at the International Exhibition held, at Lille, France, as late as 1863, after a field trial of the sharpest competition with all other machines.

During the harvest of the same year (1863), in a most spirited and hard-fought field-contest of Reapers at the great International Exhibition of Hamburg, the Gold Medal was unanimously awarded to Mr. McCormick, in the language of the judges, for the best machine exhibited, and for "the practical introduction and improvement or perfecting of the Reaping Machine."

From this Exhibition, Governor Joseph A. Wright, United States Commissioner, in a communication made to the press of this country, said: "McCormick thrashes all nations, and walks off with the Golden Medal."

Many other European Exhibitions, to say nothing of numerous State Fairs in America, have, with unanimity, awarded the McCormick Reaper and Mower their highest premiums. The National United States Agricultural Society, after a great trial of Reaping Machines, extending through nine days, at Syracuse, New York, in 1857, awarded Mr. McCormick the highest prize, their Grand Gold Medal of Honor.

Next, and more striking still, we mention the Great Exposition of all Nations, meeting in Congress at Paris, in 1867.

In the report of the International Jury of this Universal Exposition, published by the Imperial Commission, occurs this statement:

"The man who has labored most in the general distribution, perfection, and discovery of the first practical Reaper, is assuredly Mr. McCormick, of Chicago, Illinois. It was in 1831 that this ingenious and persevering inventor constructed the first ma-



chines of this kind, rude and imperfect when first tried. In all the Universal Expositions, the first prize has been awarded to this admirable implement, and at this time, at Vincennes, as at Fougilleuse, under the most difficult conditions, its triumph has been complete. Equally as a benefactor of humanity, and as a skillful mechanician, Mr. McCormick has been judged worthy of the highest distinction of the Exposition."

This report was made by Eugene Tisserand, Director-General of the Imperial Domains.

M. Aureliano, of the Danubian Principalities, in an independent report, published by the Exposition, says:—

"It is Mr. McCormick who invented the first Reaper. He occupied himself with this question from 1831, and in 1851 there was seen, for the first time, figuring at the Exposition in London, a model Reaper. We have thought it necessary to give some details on the origin of Reapers, and in particular on those of Mr. McCormick, which are, it may be said, the type after which all others have been constructed."

After the triumph of McCormick's machine in the two great public trials on the Emperor's farms at Fougilleuse and Vincennes, he was invited by the Emperor to a private exhibition of his Reaper on his farm at Chalons, for the inspection of himself and officers of his army, then stationed at that military camp. It was accordingly put in operation there, under the superintendence of Mr. McCormick, and witnessed with great interest and satisfaction for some three-quarters of an hour by the Emperor, Marshal McNeil, Director-General Tisserand, and others.

At this field trial, his Majesty was so pleased with the Reaper, that, acting under the impulse of the moment, he proposed to decorate Mr. McCormick with the cross of the Legion of Honor on the spot, and was only deterred from so doing by one of the officers, who suggested that such a course, not being *en règle*, would tend to give dissatisfaction to rival exhibitors.

Among the entries of the most magnificent awards of the Exposition are:—

"GRAND PRIZE.

C. H. McCORMICK—REAPER.

GOLD MEDAL.

C. H. McCORMICK—REAPER AND MOWER.

DIPLOMA OF CHEVALIER.

IMPERIAL ORDER OF THE LEGION OF HONOR.

NOMINATION OF CHARACTER.

*His Majesty, the Emperor, by decree of the 4th January, 1868, has named Chevalier of the Imperial Order of the Legion of Honor, Mr. McCormick, of Chicago, INVENTOR OF A NEW REAPING MACHINE, Exhibitor, to take rank from this day.*  
 PARIS, 9th January, 1868."\*

The originality, as well as value, of the invention was further emphasized in the official report :

"The man," it says, "who has worked the most to the discovery of the first practical Reaper, and to the perfection and generalization of the machines, is assuredly Mr. McCormick, of Chicago, Illinois. It was in 1831 that this ingenious and assiduous inventor constructed the first machine of this kind."

Mr. McCormick was the only exhibitor, in this greatest of all the great international exhibitions, who received the Decoration of the Legion of Honor for "*the invention*" of his machine; and also the only person in the Exposition who received *both the Decoration and its Grand Prize*.

In a great trial of Reapers at Altenberg, Hungary, held in July, at the recommendation of the Hungarian government, at which not less than thirty-eight competing machines were catalogued, the first prize, a Gold Medal, and sixty ducats were awarded to the McCormick Reaper.

And, finally, in the last harvest, of 1869, in the special International Exhibition of Reapers held at Altona, Prussia, there was awarded to the McCormick Reaper a diploma called the "Rappel of previous Gold Medals," which, in the language of the official correspondent, communicating the intelligence, "the Exhibition placed above the Gold Medal."

Inventors are sometimes unfairly reckoned among those erratic specimens of the race, who, poet-like, are "born, not made."

They are, in fact, not generally what are called business men.

They are in many cases inclined to be visionary, and without sufficient stability of purpose to pursue any one thing long and perseveringly enough to make it a success, even when success is attainable; such are often the difficulties through which a great success is achieved by an inventor.

\* The distinction of the Legion of Honor is, by a recent law in France, to be conferred only for gallantry on the field of battle.

The subject of this sketch is an illustration of the important truth that the genuine talents of the human mind are available and will pass current in any market, whether it be mechanical, mercantile, scientific, or literary. Mr. McCormick's originality has only been equaled by his tenacity and versatility.

The steady assiduity and unswerving purpose with which, over a wide and ever-expanding field of usefulness, he has pushed forward his work, afford an example of a mind in easy equipoise, *capax rerum*, and one of which it may be said, as of Isaac Barrow's, "it is characterized by a certain air of powerful and of conscious facility in the execution of whatever it undertakes, seeming always to feel itself superior to the occasion, and which, in contending with the greatest difficulties, puts forth but half its strength."

As a writer, Mr. McCormick is easy, graceful, and strong. When interested in his theme his pen moves with great power and authority, as those who have provoked him to discussion will avouch. This was strikingly shown in the famous controversy in Scotland in 1863, concerning the merits and invention of the Reaper.

There, on foreign soil, alone, browbeaten by Scotchmen for having beaten them in the Reaper, and combating the leading agricultural journal of Scotland, the *North British Agriculturist*, representing the ungenerous pride and stubborn prejudice of its countrymen, Mr. McCormick, in the judgment of the more disinterested press, came off victor.

The correspondence with this journal originated about the award of the Gold Medal to Mr. McCormick by the Implement Jury at the Hamburg International Exhibition. The editor of the *Agriculturist* desired to make it appear that this award was only an honorary thing. But a letter from one of the jury, published in the course of the correspondence, confirmed the fact that the award "means exactly what it says."

The *Mark Lane Express*, of London, the first agricultural paper of England, on the 26th of October, in an editorial on the "Battle

of the Reapers," said that "while the editor of the *North British Agriculturist* shows much zeal for his countryman's (Rev. Patrick Bell) machine, we must say that we think the facts and arguments of Mr. McCormick are presented with a clearness and force which seem unanswerable in establishing that he was the first to invent the leading features of the successful Reaping Machine of the present day; that he continued regularly the improvement and prosecution of the same to the perfection of the machine, and that this—in the slightly-varied language of the different scientific juries of the various Great International Exhibitions of the world—constitutes the invention of the Reaping Machine."

"In fact," says this London journal, "before the Great National Exhibition of 1851, if Reaping Machines were invented, they were unknown to the English farmers. We extract some paragraphs from Mr. McCormick's letter, which appeared in the *North British Agriculturist* of October 15th, which seems to have closed the discussion and appears to us to settle the question." (*Mark Lane Express*.)

The following is the letter referred to by the *Mark Lane Express* :—

PALACE HOTEL, BUCKINGHAM GATE, LONDON,

October 12, 1863.

SIR:—As stated in my letter of last week, I did hope there would be no occasion for my further use of the columns of the *Agriculturist*. I felt so for two reasons: one of which was, that while I could neither doubt my *right* fairly to defend myself, through the same medium, against assaults made upon my rights or interests, through a public journal, nor your "generous" disposition to accord to me that right, yet I did not like, even under these circumstances, to stand debtor as the recipient of "commercial" benefit without a *quid pro quo*. The other reason was my desire to close a controversy with the editor not anticipated; and, though in self-defense at any rate, reluctantly entered into. Nevertheless, I must beg to say that I can not consent to be cut short just as the matter now stands; nor would I acknowledge the Scotch blood that courses through my own veins, if the Scotch public could justify such an excision.

The public can now judge, even with your latest comments before them, of my position on the first question raised in the case through the "British Press;" and as to the question of the "invention of the Reaping Machine," so far as the views and feelings of the editor are concerned, and had been expressed, I was not only quite satisfied, but felt, as I said, that my thanks were due to him. I can well understand and appreciate his national feeling upon the question; but when he afterward not only changes his own ground upon that question, but undertakes my disparagement—not only by the



reproduction of a description of matter deemed unworthy of notice by the Commissioner of Patents, who sat in judgment upon it, but with a corresponding spirit on his part—I must claim to be heard in reply.

If, as the editor says, "Mr. McCormick is a foreigner, and entitled to at least the claim which he makes," he places himself in a singularly inconsistent position in refusing me in the next breath that very "opportunity," after further characterizing my connection with the Reaping Machine as "rather that of a commercial and successful speculator than that of a real inventor!" And this, while I have carefully avoided the slightest disparagement of the Rev. Patrick Bell, although it now appears that the notice, by the editor, of the "American machines, chiefly imitations of Bell's Reaper," disposed of in my last, and "the words of the Remonstrance by Citizens of New York" against the extension of my patent in 1834, now adopted by the editor as his reply to me, are but the reproductions of what Mr. Bell has himself in years past had published in the columns of the *North British Agriculturist*. But I am happy to have learned that, while the correspondence has been closed in its past form, the editor does yet recognize my right of reply through his correspondence columns, as an "advertisement," which also removes my first objection to its continuance, and will, I trust, make it more pleasant to the taste of my respected anonymous assailants, whose ear-marks are still visible.

And how does "its commercial character betray its origin, and almost confirm—if confirmation were needed—what we contended for?" I surely need not say to the editor of the *North British Agriculturist*, that in Reaping Machines, that which has no "commercial value, has really no value at all; and if I have furnished the best evidence of the great commercial value of my Reaping Machine in the demand which has been found for it, is that to be taken as proof against me as a "real inventor?" With a simple statement of "established facts," I shall leave others to characterize such a course by an intelligent and responsible editor of a public journal—not by interested and irresponsible signers of a remonstrance, proved also by the very face of their own paper to have been wholly unworthy of notice.

But the editor says my "communication does not give a single new fact as to the invention of the Reaper." While this as a "fact," as already stated, was not pretended, how does it apply to the readers of the *North British Agriculturist*, which is the proper test of the correctness of the statement made by the editor? What I want is a knowledge of *existing* facts. The position taken by the *North British Agriculturist*, whether by its editor, or others writing for its columns, and upon which the whole superstructure of its reasoning has been founded, has been that my invention originated with my patent in 1834; while upon this assumption only could the "American inventors" referred to, even with their abortive experiments, be made available. And the report of Examiner Page to Commissioner Burke has, on the same ground, been used to show priority of Obed Hussey to me. The explanation and proof on this point, furnished in my last and conceded by the editor, establishes my priority to Hussey and all the other "American inventors," and places them, therefore, in the position to have "borrowed" from me, instead of me from them. And still the editor, in his last commentary, with the evidence also before him of Commissioner Burke to the originality and value of my Reaping Machine, wholly ignores this fact in his statement that nothing "new" has been presented, and also in his use of the references of the remonstrants.

Now, one or two observations on the facts further elicited: First, although I did not patent my Reaper till 1834, and whilst I "preferred not to sell a Reaper until 1839" (for use in 1840), Bell never patented his, and never sold one until about the time when he adopted my cutting apparatus, when it was of course no longer a Bell's Reaper—and



after the character of my Reaper had been established throughout the world. If Bell was then a "divinity student," I was at the same time a "farmer's boy."

Second. While Hussey may have sold a very few Reaping Machines between 1834 and 1840, using in them prominent features of my prior invention, mine was operating regularly and successfully every year from 1831 onward, in numerous public exhibitions abroad, as well as in the home harvest, having cut with it fifty acres of corn in 1832, while at the same time undergoing improvements, so that, when I commenced the sale of it, that sale increased uniformly and rapidly. And thus being the first to invent the leading features of the ultimately successful Reaping Machine, and having continued regularly the improvement and prosecution of the same to the perfection of the machine, it is respectfully submitted that this, in the slightly varied language of the different scientific juries of the great international exhibitions of the world, constitutes the invention of the Reaping Machine.

What then are these original features of the successful Reaping Machine of the present day? They are, first, the application of the draught forward and at one side of the machine, called the *side-draught* machine, which was successfully done in my first machine of 1831, as shown in my patent—the application of the power at the rear, as referred to by the New York remonstrants, only having been experimented with in a machine constructed immediately preceding my application for the patent, but which was not continued afterward. The *side-draught* had first been used with a single horse in shafts, when it was thought a *wider machine might* be propelled to advantage from the rear: hence the experiment.

Second, the *cutting apparatus*, with a serrated reciprocating blade operating in fingers or supports to the cutting, over the edge of the sickle. This was also done by me successfully in 1831, with the single bearing or support on one side of the sickle, and with the *double bearing* (on both sides) in 1832, as proved by the testimony taken in the case, when this machine cut fifty acres of grain.

Third, the fixed *platform* of boards for receiving and retaining the corn as cut and deposited thereon by the *gathering reel*, until collected in a sufficient quantity or size for a sheaf.

Fourth, *discharging it from the platform on the ground in sheaves at the side of the machine*, out of the track of the horses in their next passage round.

Fifth, a *divider* for separating, in connection with the reel, the corn to be cut from that to be left standing—a further improvement upon which (with still other improvements in detail), having become the subject of a patent in 1845; while the arrangement of a suitable *seat on the machine* so as to enable the attendant the more easily and completely to deliver the corn from it, was also a subject of a third patent in 1847.

And now, while in law he who fails to reach the point of practical and *valuable* success does nothing, and he who continuously and vigorously prosecutes his invention and improvements to that point is allowed to prove back to his first experiments—with these foundation principles claimed in my machine, how does Mr. Bell stand on the editor's idea of "the great similarity of the general principles adopted in Reaping Machines?" Propelling them *from the rear* was the method adopted in nearly all the experiments made from the time of the Gauls to the time of Bell's connection with the Reaping Machine. The editor has shown that *Salmon's* machine cut by *shears* (in 1807, as Bell's), and *Smith's* laid the corn in swath in 1811—which was also done by my father's machine in 1816; while I must again be permitted to repeat that Bell's machine, while lost to the public at least in 1851, never would have been practically and commercially valuable with his cutting shears, and his impracticable gathering reel of two

and a half feet in diameter," instead of *mine of six to eight feet, as first used in its connection with my cutting apparatus*, afterward adopted by him.

To leave nothing of the adopted "reply, in the words of the remonstrance," a word further on it. "The team attached to the rear" has been explained in this letter. The remonstrance says my "platform is described as about six feet broad. Bell's machine is described as just six feet broad." The editor knows that "Bell's machine has *no platform!*" "Bell's reel," like other *unsuccessful* "gathering racks" and reels before it, has also been explained. The remonstrance then refers to one of two methods for cutting described in my patent, which also cut well but was not continued, the former being found the simpler. The claims of "the American inventors," Randal, Schnebly, and Hussey, have been disposed of as subsequent to my invention; and that of "Moore and Hascall" was simply the application of my original serrated edge to the "scal-  
loped (or saw) edged" blade (by Manning), while the *draw cut* principle in mine was entirely different and superior—and, as perfected in the patented combination of the open (or very obtuse) angle of the sickle with the angular finger, is yet superior to all others. And the *seat*, with its importance and value, as patented by me in 1847, was in vain sought to be overthrown in the courts by the introduction of the "Hussey and Randal seats."

I am, etc.,

C. H. McCORMICK.

Thus, after winning the battle of the Reapers in the harvest-fields of Europe, the inventor won them over again in the columns of an unfriendly British press.

Without *singleness* of aim and indomitable perseverance in pursuit of his object, an inventor can hardly hope for success.

The Roman poet's description of the man,

"Justum ac tenacem propositi,"

emphatically marked the career of our subject.

On one occasion, in 1859, in the great suit of *McCormick v. Seymour & Morgan*, for an infringement of his patent, in the absence of a witness for his patent of 1845, the defendants, upon a pretense, desired to put off the trial for the term; but the plaintiff, against the advice of his lawyers, boldly pressed forward the trial upon his patent of 1847 alone, and obtained a judgment for damages to an amount exceeding \$17,000. In the final trial by the Supreme Court of the United States of the great case of *McCor-  
mick v. Manny & Co.*, when the verdict was in favor of the latter, in 1858, as not infringing McCormick's patents of 1845 and 1847—when they had the free use of all the original principles in the expired patent of 1834—the decision was made by four out of seven

of the judges sitting, the other three being in favor of a verdict for plaintiff, but only one of whom wrote out his dissenting opinion. This, too, when it was argued that a verdict for plaintiff would not only ruin defendant, but prevent the manufacture of a single Reaping Machine without a license from plaintiff, while a verdict for defendant would leave plaintiff in possession of his patents and business unaffected. Nevertheless, it was believed by counsel for plaintiff that, had a full court of nine judges been sitting, the majority would have rendered a verdict for plaintiff. The result, however, did not discourage Mr. McCormick. He appears to have learned at an early period of his life the difficult art of turning defeat into victory, and securing the fruits of every success by chastening it with moderation and prudence; for without these success was unattainable, the path of the inventor lying amid chilling disappointments, not less forbidding than those which often beset the track of the Arctic explorer.

With the invention of the Reaper, Mr. McCormick's fertility of mind was by no means exhausted, but rather quickened and stimulated. Prior to his invention of the Reaper, he invented and patented two plows for *horizontal* plowing on hilly ground. The second of these ingenious contrivances, especially, called a "*Self-Sharpening Horizontal Plow*," while skillfully arranged, was simple and effective in its construction and a very valuable and superior implement to the agriculturist in hilly countries. But, suffering delay (as did the Reaper at first) in getting the merits of the invention prominently before the public, and not procuring the extension of the patent, it gradually fell into disuse for want of the requisite attention and perseverance in its introduction.

Although his great invention must be regarded as the distinguishing triumph of Mr. McCormick's life, there are other fields in which his character has been developed and his influence felt. He is known to the public not only by his former connection with the religious and secular press of Chicago, but by the controversies, like those we have already alluded to, into which he has

been drawn, in the prosecution of his leading aims of life and defense of his course as a public man.

In his political course Mr. McCormick has ever acted with decision and consistency, following without faltering or compromise his convictions of right. With this fact in view, it will not seem surprising that in times of great national excitement, his opinions have been misrepresented by some and misunderstood by others.

Born and reared in the South, having his home in the West, and his business associations leading him into close intercourse with the East, he has ever been in the *broadest* sense of the term, a national man, free from those sectional prejudices which have resulted so unfortunately for the nation. The platform on which he firmly stood during the war was that of national union and the rights of the respective States under the Federal Constitution.

Convinced that the election of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency in 1860, by a purely sectional vote, would afford an excuse or serve as a pretext for precipitating disorder and civil strife upon the country; and impressed with the belief, by his intimate knowledge of Southern character, that the war, if inaugurated, would be prolonged and disastrous, he labored earnestly for the success of the Democratic party, regarding it as the only party that could present a successful barrier against disunion on the one hand, or Federal encroachments on the other, and thus bring peace to a divided people. He attended the Democratic National Convention in Baltimore, and it is due to him to state that had his counsels been followed the disruption that ensued would not have taken place. In 1864, during the spirited Presidential contest between Lincoln and McClellan, he was presented by the Democratic and Conservative voters of Chicago as their candidate for Congress, and, although unsuccessful, conducted the most vigorous political contest ever known in that city.

Mr. McCormick was an advocate of peace, on a basis honorable alike to the North and to the South. During the contest it was charged by the Republicans that the Democratic party de-



signed a dishonorable peace with the South; and subsequent to the triumph of Mr. Lincoln, when no such suspicion could be entertained, Mr. McCormick published a proposition that the Democratic party, by convention, should select a commission from the Democracy, with the sanction of President Lincoln, to meet a similar delegation from the South, to effect a termination of the war, in a restoration of the Union—a proposition received with much favor by prominent Democrats and conservative Republicans, and by some leading newspapers on both sides; but the measure failed from the difficulty of obtaining a call of the convention.

In 1859, the subject of this notice founded and munificently endowed the Theological Seminary of the Northwest, at Chicago. After the institution, however, had fairly entered upon its career, it, unfortunately, fell into the hands of a small but irresponsible and unreliable party, determined to pervert the endowment from the purpose it was originally designed to accomplish. Unwilling that the fund he had bestowed for a specific object should be used in violation of the terms and conditions on which it had been given, the donor firmly refused to pay over the last installment on his bond as demanded of him, or so long as the seminary remained under the control of those who grossly misrepresented its founder, and the friends with whom he co-operated. The professor who had caused himself to be put in the "McCormick Chair of Theology," in "a long and severe tirade," printed in a church paper, went so far as to charge Mr. McCormick with simony. But, in a series of letters (published in 1868 and 1869, in the *Northwestern Presbyterian*), which, for dignity, chasteness of style, and clear analysis have seldom been excelled in controversial discussions, Mr. McCormick vindicated himself from the charges made against him, and proved that, like Shylock of old, his adversary had harped only on "the bond! the bond!"

In answer to this malicious attack Mr. McCormick replied by a dignified and unvarnished recital of facts, supported by a weight of evidence crushing to his opponent. Subsequently the com-



mittee appointed by the General Assembly to investigate these Seminary difficulties made a unanimous report, fully sustaining Mr. McCormick in the course he had pursued and releasing him from the payment of the "simony" bond!

Within a few years Mr. McCormick has endowed a Professorship in Washington College, Virginia, an institution founded by and named in honor of "*the father of his country*,"—recently under the presidency of General Robert E. Lee. He also has made large donations to the Union Theological Seminary of Virginia, and to other societies in connection with the Presbyterian Church.

During his eventful struggle, on many fields of ardent and painful rivalry, Mr. McCormick remained single until the year 1858. He then married a daughter of Melzar Fowler, an orphan niece of Judge E. G. Merick (at the time, of Clayton, Jefferson County, New York, but at present a citizen of Detroit), a highly gifted and accomplished lady, whose elegant and kindly attractions grace her hospitable mansion.

He has four interesting children, one son and three daughters. The eldest, eleven years of age, is a boy of more than ordinary intelligence.

The valley of Virginia, especially that portion around Lexington, was largely settled by families adhering in sentiments to the political cause of Cromwell, and by the Old School Presbyterians, in whose creed Mr. McCormick was instructed, and which he afterward embraced, in about the twenty-fifth year of his age.

In 1865 he removed from Chicago to New York, where he became interested in some important enterprises, including the Union Pacific Railroad, in which for some years he has been a Director.

And, now, in bringing this imperfect notice to a close, we may add a word upon the story it conveys. The individuality of the inventor is lost in the value of the invention. A late writer, after brilliantly portraying the events which led to the discovery of the Pacific Ocean by Vasco Nunez, remarks: "Every great and

original action has a prospective greatness—not alone from the thought of the man who achieved it, but from the various aspects and high thoughts which the same action will continue to present and call up in the minds of others to the end, it may be, of all time.” The result of human activity has an unlimited divergence like the rays of the sun. In the instance just quoted, Nunez, with folded arms and bent knees, offered thanks to God for having revealed to him the famed South Sea; so little did he dream that he had discovered the great ocean whose mighty waters cover more than one half of our entire planet. Nor is this disproportion between the value of the discovery, as at first estimated and as finally realized, a thing of rare occurrence. An English mechanic once constructed an engine for pumping water out of a coal-pit, little thinking he was thus revolutionizing the world by machinery moved by steam. The early philosophers of Greece in treating the Conic Sections never suspected that they were furnishing means for the mensuration of the heavens, and were unconsciously laying the foundations of astronomy. “Human inventions,” to use the words of Captain Maury, “are important geographical agents, and the various mechanical improvements of the age have greatly changed the face of our country and the industrial pursuits of the people. Before Whitney’s invention of the cotton-gin, the cultivation of cotton in the South was confined to a small ‘patch’ on each farm. About seventy years ago, an American ship from Charleston, arriving in England with ten bales of cotton as part of her cargo, was seized on the ground that so much cotton could not be produced in the United States. In 1860 the production had reached four millions of bales and upward.”

Raiment is to the human family second in importance to food. When the Reaper, by which the harvests of the world’s breadstuffs are sickled, attains the age of Whitney’s invention, how vast, how bright, the prospect of its use and its utility!





George Law

## GEORGE LAW.



GEORGE LAW was of Irish extraction, his father, John Law, having been born in the north of Ireland. He came to this country in 1784, and settled in Jackson, Washington county, New York, where the subject of this sketch was born, in 1806. His father was a substantial farmer, raising a large number of cattle, and keeping the most extensive dairy in the county. His son assisted in the labors of the farm until he attained the age of eighteen, enjoying such means of education as were afforded by the schools of the country. He contracted a strong taste for reading in his early days, which increased with advancing years, until his habit of studying the best works on history, science, and the higher branches of literature became inflexible, and by dint of patient and careful investigation he got to be one of the best informed men of the day. His memory was uncommonly tenacious, and what he once perused he never forgot, so that his mind was well stored and his information always available. There never lived a man more exclusively self-made. He instructed himself thoroughly in everything necessary to a perfect comprehension of the important part he was to perform on the world's stage. From the time he left his father's house up to the year 1839, when he contracted to build the High Bridge which spans the Harlem River, conveying the Croton water at a giddy height across that stream, he was continuously employed on the public works of different States, principally New York and Pennsylvania. He began in a subordinate capacity, but soon advanced to the position of superintending and sub-contracting, and then to be one of the most extensive contractors of his time, in which he laid the foundation



of his fortune. His engagements were always in constructing railroads and canals. He was popular with his men, always treating them with humane consideration, and fulfilling his engagements with them to the letter. While the High Bridge—which will stand for ages as a monument of his unerring judgment and consummate skill—was in process of construction, he sailed for Europe. He was in Paris in December, 1840, when the body of Napoleon was brought there from St. Helena. He remained abroad until the summer of 1841, visiting all the most interesting places on the continent, and spending some time in London. He described what he saw in a vivid and graphic manner, presenting a distinct image to the mind of the listener, and rendering intelligible and satisfactory what was before vague, misty, and incomprehensible. His language is simple, natural, and unambitious, and his narrative power is something extraordinary. He examined the battleground of Waterloo with patient care, understanding the disposition and movements of the contending armies with perfect clearness; and his account of that momentous struggle is as impressive a picture as that painted by the pen of Victor Hugo. He saw Vesuvius under the most auspicious conditions, and he so describes the spectacle that his hearers seem to witness the volume of smoke and flame issuing from the crater, and the burning lava pouring down the sides of the mountain. On his return to the United States, Mr. Law engaged successively in many different enterprises, for constant occupation was indispensable to him, all of which he conducted with that practical intelligence, wise discretion, and persistent energy that never fail to achieve great results. In 1842 he bought largely into the Harlem Railroad. The affairs of the company had been so grossly mismanaged that the property of the shareholders was nearly all dissipated. The stock had a nominal value of five per cent., but there was no market for it even at that low figure. The company was overwhelmed with debt. It was not earning even the running expenses of the road, and hopeless bankruptcy seemed inevitable. At this juncture Mr. Law pur-

chased a majority of the stock, and took upon himself the sole management of the road. He infused new life into its direction, provided for its outstanding debts, introduced a wise economy where all before had been foolish extravagance, and in an incredibly short period of time, the stock rose from five to seventy-five per cent. He was next persuaded to undertake the resuscitation of the Hudson and Mohawk Railroad, running between Albany and Schenectady, then swamped by a floating debt of a quarter of a million. The capital stock was a million and a quarter, and its market value was then twenty-seven per cent. There was an inclined plane at Albany and another at Schenectady. The road was badly managed, the stockholders discontented and ready to accept any terms which Mr. Law might be disposed to offer. He bought into it, and immediately assumed the control of its affairs. He dispensed with the inclined planes, changed the line of the road, carrying it around the hills, bringing it into the centre of Albany, and connecting its western terminus with the Utica road. He reduced the yearly expenses more than a hundred per cent, re-stocked the road, and when he left it, at the end of two years, its market value had increased two hundred per cent. The stock soon rose to par, and at the time of the consolidation it bore a handsome premium.

In 1847, Mr. Law embarked in the crowning enterprise of his life. In that year he commenced the preparations which ended in his becoming the owner, by building and purchase, of sixteen ocean steamers. The vast treasures of California had become partially known to the world. Colonel Sloo, of Ohio, had contracted with the United States Government to transport the mails between the Atlantic coast and California by the way of New Orleans and Chagres. Sloo had not the means to fulfill his contract, and he opened negotiations with Mr. Law in order to obtain his aid in carrying out the project. With the eye of a statesman as well as a sagacious business man, Mr. Law discerned the importance to the nation of securing this immense trade against the competition

of Great Britain. The commerce of the South Pacific was monopolized by her far-seeing merchants, and nothing but the bold enterprise and almost illimitable resources of George Law prevented them from gaining possession of the entire trade of the North Pacific and California. His great movement was inspired by the highest motives of patriotism, the vast returns from the investment being a secondary consideration. The steamer "Falcon," which he bought in 1848, took the first passengers to Chagres which reached California by steam. Soon after he built the "Ohio" and "Georgia," which commenced running in January, 1849. But we have not room for further details of his operations on the ocean. One transaction, however, was so characteristic of Mr. Law, and illustrates so fully his firmness, independence, and sense of fairness and rectitude, that in justice to him it should not be omitted. In 1852, the authorities of Cuba issued an order prohibiting the "Crescent City," or any other vessel having on board Mr. Smith, the purser of the "Crescent City," from entering the harbor of Havana; he having in some way given offence to the Captain-General of the Island. Mr. Law refused to submit to this arbitrary demand, and appealed to the Government at Washington. The timid and temporizing policy of the Administration led them to evade the real question, and to recommend that the Cuban authorities should be appeased by the removal of the obnoxious purser. This course was repugnant to Mr. Law's sense of what was due to himself as well as Smith, and he peremptorily declined to accept the suggestion. The President—whose infirmity of purpose was notorious—told Mr. Law that if his steamer was destroyed he would have no claim for damages. Mr. Law replied, with much spirit, that if the Government could not protect its own citizens in their rights, the fact ought to be known. That, for his part, he was confident that the American people would not look with composure upon any dereliction of the Government in that regard. The result was, that although the Captain-General threatened to sink the "Crescent City" if she attempted to pass the Moro Castle

with Smith on board, he was retained. The vessel continued her trips, and the order was finally withdrawn.

In 1852, the great enterprise of crossing the Isthmus from Aspinwall to Panama by rail was languishing from want of confidence in the undertaking, and the difficulty of providing the requisite means to surmount the almost invincible difficulties presented by the obstacles of high mountain ranges, deep ravines, and a climate so charged with miasma as to be dangerous to human life. The vast importance of an early completion of the road so impressed Mr. Law, that he visited Chagres and Panama in order to inform himself by personal examination in respect to the feasibility of the undertaking. After purchasing into the road to the extent of half a million of dollars, he went to Aspinwall and Panama, located a terminus, and set men at work on the road, and in constructing a dock and station for steamers, which was the first accommodation of the kind for commerce between the two oceans ever provided in that country. He came home in April, 1852, having visited Havana, Jamaica, Porto Bello, San Juan, and New Orleans, and made a careful scrutiny into the resources and capacity of those important places. On his return he made a report respecting the difficulties of the undertaking, and the prospective advantages of connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The judgment of Mr. Law was accepted as undoubted authority, and the money to complete the work was forthcoming. When he bought into the road, the market value of the stock was seventy-five per cent. The following year it rose over one hundred per cent.

His connection with the Eighth Avenue Railroad, one of the most important thoroughfares in the city, was made under similar circumstances. Certain parties had procured a grant for the road, but they were unable to complete the work, and the charter was about to lapse by its own limitation—two and one-half months only remaining of the time in which it was required to be built. Mr. Law advanced \$800,000, and completed the work within the specified period. He has been engaged in many other enterprises



of more or less magnitude, all of them being of public utility and importance. But it is hardly necessary to rehearse them in detail; suffice it to say that no man ever lived in America who has accomplished one-half that which has been achieved by Mr. Law in promoting public internal improvements, enlarging the field of our ocean traffic, and augmenting the prosperity of the country.

In the early stage of the Rebellion, the Government at Washington was wholly unequal to the exigencies of the situation. The tremendous issues which the Administration had to confront, overwhelmed the President and his Cabinet. There was neither statesmanship, firmness, nor confidence in Congress or the Executive Department. The news of the appalling and wholly unexpected defeat of the Federal forces at Bull Run fell upon the country with crushing force, while it created such a panic in Washington that Mr. Lincoln and the timid and incompetent men around him cast about for the means of escaping the impending danger. An immediate attack from the victorious Confederate army was generally apprehended. So abject and utter was the pervading terror, that Mr. Lincoln ordered an armed vessel lying at Greenleaf Point to be kept under a full head of steam, ready to transport himself and family to a place of safety; and it was currently reported, without contradiction, that he frequently visited the steamer to ascertain by personal examination that his directions were strictly obeyed. The Secretary of War, equally overcome by his fears, had a train in readiness on the Northern Central Railroad, with steam constantly up, with which to flee with his family to the interior of Pennsylvania. And but for the calm intrepidity and the wise and soldierly assurances of General Scott, by which the terrors of the President and Cabinet were allayed and partially removed, it may be doubted whether there would not have been an utter rout of the Administration, leaving the Capital of the nation to the mercy of the rebels. The whole North was distressed, disgusted, almost paralyzed, by the magnitude of the perils by which we were menaced. So strong and all-pervading was the sense of inse-

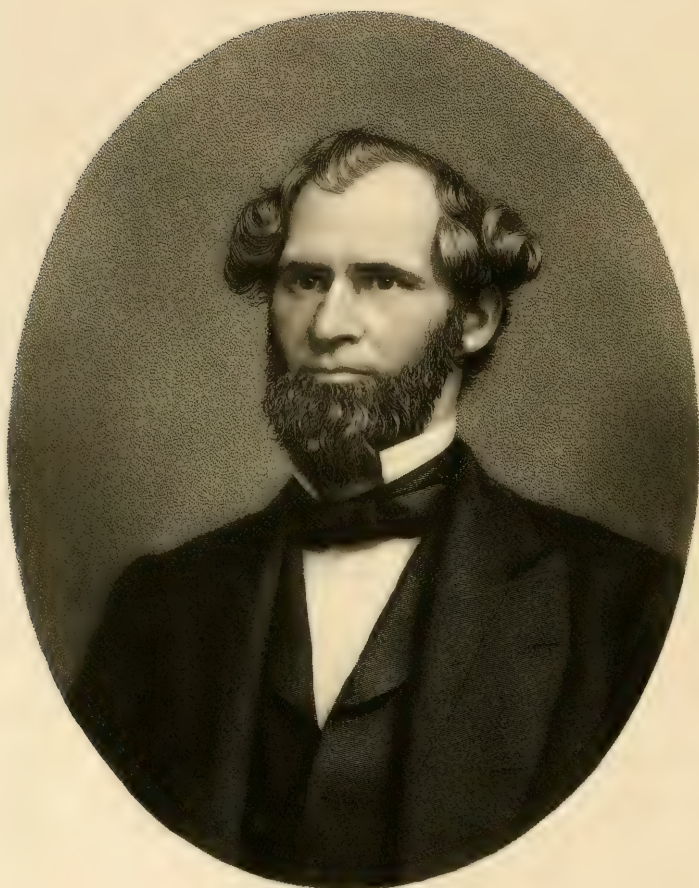


curity and danger, that extraordinary measures were clamorously demanded. At this juncture Mr. Raymond, of the *New York Times*, proposed a revolutionary movement as the only means of saving the nation. His outcry seemed to embody the popular sentiment, and when he suggested that the authorities at Washington should be deposed as unequal to the emergency, and a Provisional Government created with George Law for its head, with the power of a Dictator, the country stood aghast at the audacity of the man who could contemplate such a proceeding. Still there was a sensation of relief produced by the reflection that the services of one so competent, so self-contained, with such a profound knowledge of men, and means so ample, were at the disposition of the people. The proposition, although startling at the outset, soon came to be calmly considered, and there seemed to be a general concurrence of opinion that something had to be done immediately, if the seat of government was to be successfully defended, and that if it became necessary to set aside the Washington Government, Mr. Law was the man to be invested with supreme authority. This brief description of the situation in 1861 is given as an indication of the popular estimate of the practical wisdom, the sound judgment, and the vast resources of George Law. For many years of his life, and even after he had acquired much of his large wealth, the character and attributes of Mr. Law were utterly misunderstood and misconceived throughout the country. Up to a late period of his life, there was the strangest discrepancy between the popular estimation of Mr. Law and the man himself. He had been concerned in so many important enterprises in connection with the public works in different parts of the country, and his name was so identified with steam navigation on our inland waters, as well as on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, that he was as generally known as any other private American citizen. And notwithstanding the uniform skill, intelligence, and success with which his business operations were conducted, none but his intimate friends and those who became acquainted with him in the prosecution of these

undertakings had the remotest idea of the intellectual or moral nature of George Law. The general impression was that he had attained to opulence by lucky speculations and thrifty contracts, into which he had been led by an overmastering desire for gain, avarice being his master passion. Whereas, in fact, his large estate has been acquired by wise forecast, intelligent calculation, and the energetic prosecution of immense enterprises conceived for the twofold purpose of promoting the general good and receiving a fair return therefrom. If a hackneyed phrase could be excused in this connection, we might say that Mr. Law is one of the most remarkable man of the age. Considering his humble origin and the privations of his childhood and earlier youth, what he has accomplished by his own unaided exertions, the extent to which he has educated himself, his solid acquirements in many branches of useful knowledge, his wonderful skill in managing men, and his general effective power, are a marvel to all who know him. He is an original and profound thinker, with a brain as clear as a bell, working with the precision of the most perfectly ordered machine. We have never known a more self-contained man, or one who brings to the consideration of every subject of which he takes cognizance a healthier or stronger intellect, or who is more certain to arrive at a correct conclusion. His mental structure is as massive and potent as his physical. He is a giant in stature, and his mind is correspondingly large, operating slowly and with great deliberation, but with ponderous force. He is methodical and systematic in his habits and mode of doing business. He is equable in temper, self-poised, rarely excited, and never thrown from his balance. He is an eminently just man; he fulfils all his engagements with fidelity, and never prosecuted an enterprise by dishonorable and questionable means.

In politics, he sympathizes with the Democratic party, but of late years has taken no active part in elections. But he has all the elements requisite in a great leader, and is capable of exerting a controlling influence in any sphere, however extended.






*Galusha A. Grow*

## HON. GALUSHA A. GROW.

[We are indebted to the enterprising publishing house of Zeigler, McCurdy & Co., Philadelphia, publishers of "Men of Our Day," for the greater part of this sketch.]

ALUSHA A. GROW is a native of Ashford (now Eastford), Windham County, Connecticut, where he was born, August 31, 1824. At the tender age of three years, he lost his father, Joseph Grow, who died, leaving six children, the eldest of whom was but fourteen years old and the youngest an infant, and a property, the proceeds of which were barely sufficient to pay his debts. Galusha was sent to live with his grandfather, Captain Samuel Robbins, of Voluntown, in the eastern part of the county, with whom he remained until he was ten years old, performing the work common to farmers' boys of his age, viz., driving oxen to plow, milking, "riding horse" to farrow out corn, "doing chores," etc.—and attending district school in the winters. About that time his mother removed to Pennsylvania, where she purchased a farm in Susquehanna County, on the Tunkhannock Creek, at a place called Glenwood, where she resided until her death, in 1864; and which is still the home of her four sons, of whom all, except Galusha and his oldest brother, are married. The farm which this good matron purchased was paid for partly at that time, and partly in annual payments; and it required the exercise of much thrift on her part, as well as the united industry of all her children, to make, as the saying is, "both ends meet." She opened a small country-store, which one of her boys tended, while two others worked the farm and engaged in lumbering. Galusha, being the youngest boy, assisted his brother in the store, and accompanied him, in the spring seasons, in rafting lumber



down the Susquehanna River. In 1838 he commenced a course of study at Hartford Academy, preparatory to a collegiate education; and, in 1840, entered the Freshman class at Amherst College, Massachusetts. From this excellent institution, although slenderly fitted by his scanty preparatory studies to cope with his well drilled New England classmates, he graduated in 1844, with high honors, and with the reputation of being a ready debater, and a fine extemporaneous speaker. As frequently happens, however, the assiduity with which he had applied himself to his studies had seriously impaired his health; yet, nothing daunted, he plunged earnestly into the study of law, was admitted to the bar of Susquehanna County, in the fall of 1847, and continued to practice successfully until the spring of 1850, when broken health compelled him to leave the office for outdoor and more invigorating pursuits. The following year, therefore, was spent in surveying, farming, peeling hemlock bark for tanning use, etc., and his enfeebled frame began soon to show encouraging results of such labors.

In the fall of 1850, he received and declined a unanimous nomination for a seat in the State Legislature, tendered by the Democratic County Convention. But, a few months later, while engaged with a gang of men in rebuilding a bridge over the Tunkhannock, which had been swept away by a freshet, he was informed that he had been nominated for Congress. The campaign into which he now entered was a most spirited one—the Democratic party in his district being divided on the Wilmot proviso, the breach had become more fully developed after the passage of the compromise measures of 1850. One wing of the party renominated Mr. Wilmot, while the other selected James Lowrey, Esq., of Tioga County, each candidate canvassing the district in person, and their respective friends becoming warmly enlisted. The Whig candidate was John C. Adams, a lawyer of Bradford County. The district, which then comprised Susquehanna, Bradford, and Tioga counties, usually gave a Democratic majority

of about two thousand five hundred. Eight days before the election, Wilmot and Lowrey agreed, after consultation with respective friends, to withdraw from the contest, if the Democratic conference of the district would reassemble and nominate Grow, who was then unknown in Tioga County, but had taken a very active part in his own county, in the presidential elections of 1844 and 1848, had been a warm supporter of Wilmot, and was his law partner for two years.

The conference composed of both sets of conferees met at Wellsboro, Tioga County, the week before the election, and all agreed on Grow as a candidate. He was elected by twelve hundred and sixty-four majority, and took his seat in December, 1851, the youngest member of Congress.

He continued to represent the district for twelve consecutive years, being elected by majorities ranging from eight thousand to fourteen thousand, and once by the unanimous vote of the district, so that he was often styled "Great Majority Grow."

With the exception of Wilmot, who was elected six years, no representative had ever been elected in the district to exceed four years.

A new Congressional apportionment of the State, in 1861, united Susquehanna County with Luzerne County, and made the district Democratic, by which he was defeated in the election of 1862; since which time he has been engaged in lumbering and his old pursuit of surveying, trying to regain health, which had become very feeble when he left Washington in the spring of 1863.

In 1855 he spent six months in Europe, and most of the summer of 1857 in the Western Territories. He was one of the victims of the National Hotel poisoning, in the winter and spring of 1857, from which he has never fully recovered.

In Congress, the most important committees on which he served were the committees on Indian Affairs, Agriculture, and Territories. For six years he was on the Committee on Territories, and four years its chairman; embracing all the time of the Kansas

troubles; and so devoted was he to the interests and affairs of Kansas, that his fellow-members often designated him (good-naturedly) as the member from Kansas.

His twelve years of service extended through a most important period of the Republic: the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, election of Banks, Speaker, the Kansas troubles, Lecompton Bill, the Homestead Bill, the Pacific Railroad, etc., as well as the Fremont and Lincoln campaigns, etc.

Mr. Grow's maiden speech in Congress was made on the "Homestead Bill," a measure which he continued to press at every Congress until its final passage as a law in 1861. Indeed, the persistency of his efforts for its success, gained for him the appropriate *sobriquet* of "The Father of the Homestead bill." In the speech to which we allude, delivered March 30, 1852, Mr. Grow remarked: "The struggle between capital and labor is an unequal one at best. It is a struggle between the bones and sinews of men and dollars and cents; and in that struggle it needs no prophet's ken to foretell the issue. And in that struggle, is it for this government to stretch forth its arm to aid the strong against the weak? Shall it continue, by its legislation, to elevate and enrich idleness on the weal and the woe of industry? \* \* \* While the public lands are exposed to indiscriminate sale, as they have been since the organization of the government, it opens the door to the wildest system of land monopoly, one of the direst, deadliest curses that ever paralyzed the energies of a nation or palsied the arm of industry. It needs no lengthy dissertation to portray its evils. Its history in the Old World is written in sighs and tears." \* \* \* "If you would raise fallen man from his degradation, and elevate the servile from his groveling pursuits to the rights of man, you must first place within his reach the means for supplying his pressing physical wants, so that religion may exert its influence on the soul, and soothe the weary pilgrim in his pathway to the tomb. \* \* \* If you would make men wiser and better, relieve your almshouses, close the doors of your penitentiaries, and break in pieces your

gallows, purify the influences of the domestic fireside. For that is the school in which human character is formed, and there its destiny is shaped; there the soul receives its first impressions, and man his first lesson, and they go with him for weal or for woe through life. For purifying the sentiments, elevating the thoughts, and developing the noblest impulses of man's nature, the influences of a moral fireside and agricultural life are the noblest and the best. In the obscurity of the cottage, far removed from the seductive influences of rank and affluence, are nourished the virtues that counteract the decay of human institutions, the courage that defends the national independence, and the industry that supports all classes of the state."

In all the exciting discussions of public affairs, since 1850, Mr. Grow has taken an active and influential part, especially in those relating to the extension or perpetuity of slavery.

Mr. Grow, although educated a Democrat, and his family connections all belonging to that party (but now being Republican), has been thoroughly *anti-slavery* in his convictions and his utterances, asserting boldly that "slavery, wherever it goes, bears a sirocco in front and leaves a desert behind." He resisted with all his energies the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and, from the date of its consummation, he wholly severed his connection with the Democratic party. When, upon the floors of Congress, Southern bullies adopted the bludgeon and revolver as their logic, he met their insolence with a muscular argument, which proved the sincerity of his declaration to Keitt, the South Carolinian, that "no nigger-driver could crack his whip over him." And soon after the infamous assault upon Sumner by this same Keitt and his friends, Mr. Grow took occasion, in a speech on the admission of Kansas, to assert that "tyranny and wrong rule with brute force one of the Territories of the Union, and violence reigns in the capital of the Republic. In the one, mob-law silences with the revolver the voice of men pleading for the inalienable rights of man; in the other, the sacred guaranties of the Constitution are violated, and reason



and free speech are supplanted by the bludgeon ; and, in the council chamber of the nation, men stand up to vindicate and justify both. Well may the patriot tremble for the future of his country when he looks upon this picture and then upon that !”

In 1859, he was mainly instrumental in defeating the attempt in the Senate to increase the rates of postage from three to five and ten cents on letters and double the old rates on printed matter.

On the 4th of July, 1861, Mr. Grow was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, an office which he held during the first two years of the war, receiving, at the close of his term, the first *unanimous* vote of thanks which had been given by that body to any Speaker in many years. The eloquent and patriotic words which he uttered upon taking the chair of the House, at a time when the rebel flag of the new Confederacy was flaunting in the very sight of Washington, were made good by the alacrity with which—when the mob held possession of Baltimore, severing the connection with the North—he seized a musket, and, as a member of Clay’s brigade, stood “on watch and ward,” until the arrival of New York Seventh and other troops, *via* Annapolis, brought safety to the capital. He was drafted under the first draft ; and, although exempted by the board of examination, as unfit for military duty, by reason of his health, he still furnished two substitutes who served through the war.

During the Presidential election of 1868 he was chairman of the Republican Central Committee of Pennsylvania. At the session of the Legislature of 1869, most of the Republican papers of the State zealously urged his election to the Senate of the United States, but other influences prevailed.

For the past year he has been engaged in Philadelphia in the manufacture of a vitreous porcelain, out of a mineral imported from Greenland, called kryolith.

Though absorbed in business, he has lost none of his interest in the public questions of the day which affect the rights of men or the interests of the laboring classes.



At the celebration of the adoption of the Fifteenth Constitutional Amendment, at Philadelphia, by the colored people of the State, he said :—

"The second great epoch in our history is passed, and we meet on this occasion to commemorate the third. The ideas that made the fathers the fanatics of their day have been incorporated into organic law, and are stamped in indelible characters upon the pillars of the Republic. The Goddess of Liberty can now rear her altars without shuddering at the clank of the chain riveted by her professed votaries. Henceforth the land of Washington is the home of the emigrant and the asylum of the exile of every clime, and of all races of men. We stand on the line that divides the old from the new; the dispensation of hate, oppression, and wrong from that of liberty and right. . . . Grievously the nation sinned, generously it has atoned. God so ordained in the retributions of His providences, that for the sighs and tears wrung from the bondmen through ages of sorrow, He exacted the sighs and tears of a nation mourning its unreturning brave. The wealth coined in the sweat of the laborer's unrequited toil He scattered to the winds in the havoc and devastation of war. Will the Republic learn from this terrible visitation of anguish and woe that the only sure foundation for social peace and national perpetuity is in equal and just laws administered alike for the protection of every citizen? Nations live by the practice of justice, and they die by injustice and wrong."

His prediction in the following extract from his closing address, 4th March, 1863, as Speaker of the Thirty-seventh Congress, has been fully verified.

"Whether the night of our adversity is to be long or short, there can be no doubt of the final dawn of a glorious day. For such is the physical geography of the continent that there can be, between the Gulf and the Lakes, but *one* nationality. No matter what changes may be wrought in its social organization, its territorial limits will continue the same. The traditions of the past, and the hopes of the future, have crystallized in the American heart the fixed resolve of *one union, one country, and one destiny*. And no human power can change that destiny any more than it can stay the tide of the 'father of waters,' as it rolls from the mountains to the sea.

"If the people between the Gulf and the Lakes can not live together in peace as one nation, they certainly can not as two. This war then, though it cost countless lives and untold treasure, must, in the nature of things, be prosecuted till the last armed rebel is subdued, and the flag of our fathers is respected on every foot of American soil."

Mr. Grow's public career, as will be seen, has been prominently marked by his persistent advocacy of free homesteads, free territory, human freedom, cheap postage, and, indeed, every measure by which the people were to be made wiser, purer, or happier. It is a record of which every public man may well be proud; a record peculiarly

befitting one who, brought up a farmer's boy, has never forgotten or hesitated to acknowledge the interests which the working-men of the Republic have upon his services. Though young in years, and far from robust in health, and with no adventitious aid from wealth or family influence, he has already achieved a national reputation.

His long public career as a politician has been marked by a straightforwardness and fidelity which excite the admiration of the people. It has been marred by no wavering, no eccentricities, no lapses from the path of principle, but he has carried the flag of the party and the country, undismayed, through battle, through defeat, and victory, relying upon the immutability and truth of the cause, with

"Not a star tarnished, not a stripe polluted."

Vigorous outdoor exercise during the past six years has tended greatly to re-establish his health, and may, we sincerely hope, fit him for a still more extended career of public influence and usefulness





Yours truly  
E. D. Morgan

## HON. EDWIN D. MORGAN.

BY J. ALEXANDER PATTEN.



HE name of Edwin D. Morgan has a national renown. Throughout our vast country his eminent services in municipal, State, and National offices have obtained for him universal public praise. Honest and patriotic, intelligent and efficient, he has displayed those qualities which are at once the highest in manhood and in official station.

Edwin D. Morgan, eighteenth governor of New York, and late senator of the United States, was born in the town of Washington, Massachusetts, February 8, 1811. He attended the public schools of that section until he was twelve years of age, when his father removed to Windsor, Connecticut, where he was a pupil of the high school, and subsequently a student in the Bacon Academy at Colchester. He was a boy of remarkable energy and intelligence. When the family removed to Windsor, a distance of some fifty miles, young Edwin drove an ox-team, loaded with the household effects, performing a large share of the journey on foot. Having reached the age of seventeen he went to Hartford, where he became a clerk in the wholesale grocery and commission house of his uncle. This was a great step for him. Filled with bright anticipations of a successful future, to be gained by integrity and industry, he devoted himself to his duties with great zeal. He mastered the details of the business with surprising ease, and showed a tact and penetration in bargaining that proved him to have rare capacity for business. At the end of three years his uncle admitted him to a partnership, and he remained in Hartford some five years longer, carefully accumulating a capital. In 1836 he came to the city of New York to reside, and established himself in the same kind of trade. His capital was not



more than a few thousand dollars, and in the infancy of his business he was obliged to pass through the terrible financial crisis of 1837, which he did successfully. The house then established is still in prosperous business, after a period of more than thirty years.

Mr. Morgan was a most intelligent and high-toned representative of the mercantile character. He gave dignity to all the transactions of the mart and the counting-room. No man of his day had more judgment, foresight, or nerve. He devoted thought and energy to his pursuit, and embarked in ventures before unattempted. Something of his disposition in business matters is shown in an anecdote which is related of him. He was engaged in a great sugar speculation, and went to Louisiana to buy the article. A rival was there doing the same thing. One evening Mr. Morgan approached the house of a planter, and found dancing and merriment going on. When the planter appeared, he invited Mr. Morgan to enter, and partake of his hospitality in company with another guest, already present, whose name was mentioned. This guest was Mr. Morgan's rival, and he knew that his errand was to buy the crop of the planter. Under these circumstances, Mr. Morgan declined the invitation, but at once entered into a negotiation for the crop of sugar, which he bought, and rode on. Next morning when the rival opened business he learned, to his astonishment, that the entire crop had been purchased the evening before by Mr. Morgan.

His whole business career was characterized by an enterprise which was both bold and successful. His transactions at home and in foreign markets were on the most extensive scale, and the integrity and soundness of his house were beyond all question. He gave his influence and pecuniary aid to the railroads of the country. He was an early friend of the Hudson River Railroad, and at one time the president of the company.

As early as 1840 he began to give attention to public affairs. While there was a Whig party he labored with untiring assiduity for its success, and on the organization of the Republican party became one of its leaders. At the Republican National Convention held at

Pittsburgh, in 1856, he acted as vice-president and was there made Chairman of the National Committee. In that capacity he opened the convention at Philadelphia, in 1856, that nominated Fremont; that at Chicago in 1860, which nominated Lincoln; and also that at Baltimore, which re-nominated Mr. Lincoln. In 1866 he was made chairman of the Union Congressional Committee. It is needless to say that in all of these positions and duties he exhibited a dignity and efficiency that gave great satisfaction to his party.

Going back to 1849, we find Mr. Morgan a member of the Board of Assistant Aldermen in New York, of which he was chosen president. During the prevalence of the Asiatic cholera at that period he served on the Sanitary Committee, and won the everlasting gratitude of the people by his courageous and persevering services in behalf of the public health. Subsequently he was twice elected from the Sixth Senatorial District to a seat in the Senate, where he was placed at the head of the Standing Committee on Finance. At the regular session of 1851, and at the extra meeting of that summer he was made president *pro tempore* of the Senate. In 1852 the Democratic party had gained control of the Senate, but Mr. Morgan was unanimously chosen again as its temporary president, and also, for the fourth time, in the following year. He held the office of a commissioner of emigration from 1855 to 1858, when he was elected governor. He served two terms as governor, and at his election in 1860 received the largest majority ever given for this office in the State of New York.

The administration of public affairs by Governor Morgan was enlightened and comprehensive in the highest degree. State credit, canal enlargement, defenses of the harbor of New York, and finally the duty of filling the quota of the State in a prolonged and bloody war, were all matters which fell to his executive care. All were managed with signal ability and success. His messages showed a clear and searching insight into the affairs of the State, and his recommendations were always judicious and practical. At the end of his term of office he had sent no less than 320,000 men into the

field, being more than a fifth part of all that had yet entered the service. In addition to these the State militia were on three several occasions, dispatched to Washington to answer emergencies. When he left his office, New York stood credited with an excess over all quotas. The aggregate sum expended in bounties under the direction of Governor Morgan was \$3,500,000, which the Legislature at its next session, acting on the recommendation of Governor Seymour, lost no time in legalizing. The thanks of the President and the Secretary of War were frequently tendered to Governor Morgan, for his promptness and efficiency in responding to the wants of the government. As an expression of the President's sense of these important services, and to secure other practical advantages, in September, 1861, Governor Morgan was appointed a major-general of volunteers, and the State has erected a military department under his command. He made contracts in behalf of the general government for rations, clothing, arms, and ordnance to the extent of many millions of dollars, which were all approved.

In all his public duties and obligations Governor Morgan had the public good solely in view. Charged with the manifold and momentous interests of a great State, he devoted to them his whole intelligence and energy.

As the time for the election of a United States senator drew near, Governor Morgan became a prominent candidate. In February, 1861, he was elected for the term of six years, to succeed Preston King. He took his seat at the called session of March of that year, and has served on the Committees on Commerce, Finance, the Pacific Railroad; as chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, on Manufactures, Military Affairs, Mines and Mining, and on Printing. In February, 1865, on the retirement of Mr. Fessenden, he was asked by Mr. Lincoln to accept the position of Secretary of the Treasury, which he declined. His career in the Senate was marked by the same dignity and purity of action that had characterized him in all other public stations. Leaving to others the oratorical displays, he confined himself to the severe duties of

the committees, and to a rule of being in his seat to vote on all important measures. No senator exercised a wider influence among his associates of both parties, or commanded more public respect.

In July, 1867, Williams College, which is located in Mr. Morgan's native county of Berkshire, Massachusetts, conferred upon him the degree of LL. D. As an earnest friend of the learned institutions of the country, and a statesman of tried ability and virtues, this was an act that gave not less honor to the institution than to Mr. Morgan.

He is a man of massive frame and tall stature. Erect, self-possessed, and courtly, he has a most dignified and impressive presence. His head is of a size in proportion to his large body, and the fine intellectual face has every feature prominent and noble. The brow is full and high, the nose and mouth are prominent and expressive. The eyes, though not by any means small, are deep set beneath the overhanging forehead. His face shows the amiable, virtuous character, and at the same time a fixedness of purpose and courage. Neither his manners nor conversation partake of any thing like conceit of opinion or position. But there is an elevation in the one and a decision in the tone of the other, that never fail to produce an impression. A man of splendid fortune and of the highest social station, he is not an aristocrat in his feelings or actions, but he always maintains the dignity properly belonging to the refined and exalted life.

Our country has produced no man superior to Edwin D. Morgan in varied and useful talents for the walks of commerce and public duty. With the most insignificant advantages in youth, he has achieved business success and national fame. Never untrue to principle, never faithless to friends or obligations, he stands in his private and public career an example to his own and all coming times.











Geo. W. Childs  
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## GEORGE W. CHILDS.

BY JAMES PARTON.



YOUNG man entering now upon a career of business may well be discouraged at times when he considers the little chance he has of ever attaining a place among the masters and possessors of the world. A business establishment must now be immense or nothing. It must absorb or be absorbed. It must either be a great, resistless maelstrom of business, drawing countless wrecks into its vortex, or it must be itself a wreck, and contribute its quota to the all-engulfing prosperity of a rival.

This is the law of modern business, against which it were idle to declaim. It is one of the results of man's reducing to subjection the mighty power of steam, by which he must first be enabled, and then compelled, to transact all his affairs on the great scale. Nor ought we to regret the change ; for, although the period of transition is one of loss and disaster to many, yet the result, I firmly believe, will be a universal advance in all that constitutes civilization. No man likes to see his business absorbed into the giant establishment of his neighbor. No cobbler relishes being swallowed up into a great manufactory of shoes ; and no wayside blacksmith welcomes the invention which now turns out, in a single factory, a million horseshoes a week, better made and cheaper than the most dexterous of human hands could produce them. But, suppose the revolution complete ; imagine the time when all the world's work shall be done in establishments which *must* be well-ordered and ably-conducted, merely *because* they are immense ; when every man, instead of aiming to be the chief of a petty shop, subject to all the narrowing influences of its smallness and uncertainty, shall be a member of a concern which by its very vastness shall dignify all that belong to it, and which will, by its stability, afford that safe foot-

hold in the world which a small business rarely can! I see glorious promise for the future of our race in that irresistible tendency, which so many deplore, that is creating everywhere businesses of enormous proportions. The proprietors of them will be expanded and elevated by the largeness of their transactions, and they will be compelled to employ, encourage, and justly compensate every grade of talent. They must do this. It will be no affair of sentiment and generosity. That concern will everywhere be strongest which will know best how to attract and retain men of ability.

Nevertheless, we can blame no young man if he looks back with regret to the time when Franklin could suppose that a capital of two hundred dollars was sufficient to set a mechanic up in business. Modern establishments certainly do look discouragingly vast to young ambition. A youth who begins life in a store like Stewart's, of New York, which is exactly two hundred times as extensive as the ordinary dry-goods store of former days, and which expends more money in a day than his salary would amount to in a century, may well stand confounded when he considers the obstacles in the way of his attaining mastership. But if steam is mighty, man is mortal. These great concerns are controlled by men who grow old, who withdraw, who must one day resign the reins to younger men; and in them all there is going on a process of sifting out from the mass of persons employed the few who will at length govern departments, and the one who will finally bear sway over the whole. Under the *régime* of the steam-engine, as in the times preceding it, the rule still holds good that a man usually gets into as high a place as he is really fit for, and rises about as fast as it is safe he should. Providence being a good economist, first-rate men do not long continue in second-rate places.

These familiar truths are strikingly illustrated in the career of Mr. Childs, the proprietor of the most important and lucrative newspaper of Philadelphia, one of those *rooted* newspapers which grow with the growth of their city, and which seem capable of declining only with its decline.

Twenty-five years ago, when I was a resident of Philadelphia, there was one spot of that sedate and tranquil city which seemed like home; for it exhibited the vitality which New Yorkers are accustomed to witness on every hand. This was the corner of Third and Chestnut streets, where was published the *Public Ledger*, and where there was also the most flourishing depot of newspapers and cheap publications then existing in the city. It was always exhilarating to pass that corner; such was the bustle and bright display of the fugitive wares of literature. The *Ledger* then seemed as firmly established in the habits and confidence of the people as a newspaper could be, and it was still owned by the three able men who had founded it many years before. The *Ledger* building was solid, tall, and imposing, and the office wore that air of immutable prosperity which old banks and old newspaper establishments alone possess.

It had begun in the quiet way in which things of lasting importance usually do; and it had had that tough struggle for life which the strong never escape. On half a sheet of paper three journeymen printers from New York had drawn up, in 1836, their articles of partnership, had hired a small office, bought a hand-press, engaged an editor, and launched their enterprise—a penny paper—a novelty then in Philadelphia. They would have failed if they had been cowards, for they had not the capital to wait long for success. Luckily for them, questions arose which gave them the chance of risking destruction by doing right. They *did* right; they took the side of law against influential mobs. When the medical students—a numerous brotherhood in Philadelphia—were disorderly, the little *Ledger* defied and rebuked them. When the Irish were hunted down by Native Americans, and Catholic churches were burned by rioters, the *Ledger* courted odium by denouncing lawless violence, and nearly incurred ruin. When the abolitionists were mobbed, the *Ledger*, though its corps of proprietors and editors disapproved their proceedings, defended their right to assemble and discuss public questions.



Such conduct as this makes a newspaper strike down its roots deep in the gratitude and esteem of the stable and the *subscribing* portion of the public. A newspaper gains by daring to lose. It never does so well for itself as when it gives wide-spread offense by being right a month before its readers.

In 1848, when the *Ledger* had been in existence twelve years, it had grown past the perils of its youth, and yielded to its proprietors incomes ample and secure. They were still in the prime of life, and with powers strengthened by use and success; nor were there wanting in the establishment men of mature and tried ability, who might be supposed capable of taking their places when age should have disposed them to withdraw. At that very time the future master of the *Ledger* worked in a portion of the *Ledger* building. He was not its chief editor. He was not foreman, book-keeper, or confidential factotum. He was not in the line of promotion at all. If any one had been asked to go over the edifice and name the person employed in it who was most likely to succeed to the proprietorship, he would not have so much as taken into consideration the chances of a youth, named Childs, who occupied a small office in the building. I should have passed him by as a person totally out of the question. And yet he, the almost unknown lad of eighteen, without capitaled friends or connections, with nothing to aid him but his own brain, hands, and habits—he, George W. Childs, was the predestined person! The editor, who was a forcible and fluent writer, attempted mastership and failed. Other leading men in the building tried for the same prize, but with no memorable success. That boy was the man! *He* was the born master. *He* was the heir, though not the heir-apparent. And, what was still more remarkable, he had already distinctly set before himself, as an object to be accomplished, the proprietorship of the *Ledger* establishment. He had said to himself: “*I will own all this some day!*”

It was not the random utterance of a light-hearted boy. He meant it. It was his deliberate purpose; and he had grounds, even

in his boyish successes, for believing in its fulfillment. In the years that followed, he made no secret of his intention; but often said to his intimate friends, "If I live, I will become the owner of the *Public Ledger*." He said so to Dr. R. Shelton Mackenzie, nine years before he accomplished his purpose, and at a time when there seemed no likelihood of its ever being for sale, or of his possessing the means of buying it. The audacity of such a thought in a boy of eighteen can hardly be appreciated by any one who was not familiar with Philadelphia at the time, and with the solid basis of prosperity upon which the *Ledger* stood. It was as though a poor boy who had struggled to London from a distant town, and obtained some obscure employment about Printing House Square, should quietly say to himself: "I will one day own the *London Times*!"

The lad was a stranger in Philadelphia, recently arrived from Baltimore, his native city. His early friends in Baltimore do not depict him as in the least resembling the ideal boy of modern novels—the Tom Browns, who put forth their whole soul in football and cricket, and bestow the reluctant residue upon the serious business of school. With sincere deference to our honored guest, Mr. Thomas Hughes, I must beg leave to state, that superior men, who learn to govern themselves and direct affairs do not spend their boyhood so. *Not* in the Rugby style do the Jeffersons, Franklins, Pitts, Peels, Watts, nor the great men of business, nor the immortals of literature and art, pass the priceless hours of boyhood and youth. Such boys do not despise the oar and the bat, but they do not exalt the sports of the playground to the chief place in their regard. This boy certainly did not. He exhibited, even as a child, two traits seldom found in the same individual: a remarkable aptitude for business, and a remarkable liberality in giving away the results of his boyish trading. At school he was often bartering boyish treasures—knives for pigeons, marbles for pop-guns, a bird-cage for a book; and he displayed an intuitive knack in getting a good bargain by buying and selling at

the right moment. At a very early age, he had a sense of the value of time, and a strong inclination to become a self-supporting individual. He has told his friends that, in his tenth year, when school was dismissed for the summer, he took the place of errand-boy in a bookstore, and spent the vacation in hard work. This was not romantic, but it was highly honorable to a little fellow to be willing thus to work for the treasures that boys desire. At thirteen, he entered the United States Navy, and spent fifteen months in the service; an experience and discipline not without good results upon his health and character.

He was a favorite among his boyish friends. One of them, Hon. J. J. Stewart, of Maryland, has recently said: "He was then what you find him now. His heart was always larger than his means. There is but one thing he always despised, and that is meanness; there is but one character he hates, and that is a liar. When he left Baltimore, a little boy, the affectionate regrets of all his companions followed him to Philadelphia; and the attachment they felt for him was more like romance than reality in this everyday world. . . . I remember that he wrote to me years ago, when we were both boys, that he meant to prove that *a man could be liberal and successful at the same time.*"

Let us see if the career of the man has fulfilled the dream of the boy.

Upon reaching Philadelphia, a vigorous lad of fourteen, he knew but one family in the city, and they, soon removing, left him friendless there. He found employment in his old vocation of shop-boy in a bookstore. But he was no longer a boy. Experience had given him an early maturity of mind and character, and he was soon discharging the duties of a man. Paying strict attention to business, working early and late for his employer, disdaining no honest service, he soon had an opportunity, young as he was, of showing that he possessed the rarest faculty of a business man—*judgment*. After shutting up the store in the evening, he was intrusted by his employer with the duty of frequenting the book auctions and

making purchases ; and by the time he was sixteen, it was he who was regularly deputed to attend the book trade-sales at New York and Boston. After serving in this capacity for four years, being then eighteen years of age, having saved a few hundred dollars capital, and accumulated a much larger capital in character, in knowledge of business, and in the confidence of business men, he hired a small slice of the Ledger building, and set up in business for himself. Already he felt that his mission was to conduct a great daily paper ; already, as before remarked, he had said to himself, that paper shall be the *Public Ledger*.

In his narrow slip of a store in the *Ledger* building, he bestirred himself mightily, and throve apace. Faculty is always in demand ; and I say again, a young man generally gets a step forward in his career about as soon as he is able to hold it. Before he was quite twenty-one, we find him a member of that publishing firm which afterward obtained so much celebrity and success under the title of Childs & Peterson. The intelligent head of the old firm of R. E. Peterson & Co. had the discernment to see his capacity, and sought an alliance with him. It was a strong firm ; for the talent it contained was at once great and various. Mr. Peterson and his family had considerable knowledge of science and literature, and Mr. Childs possessed that sure intuitive judgment of the public taste and the public needs without which no man can succeed as a publisher. He had, also, that strong confidence in his own judgment, which gave him courage to risk vast amounts of capital, and even the solvency of the firm, upon enterprises at which many a more experienced publisher would have shaken his head.

There is no business so difficult as that of publishing books. Few succeed in it, and still fewer attain a success at all commensurate with the energy and risk which it demands. The very knowledge and taste which a publisher may possess are more likely to mislead than to guide him aright ; and, accordingly, we find that some of the greatest publishing houses in every country, are conducted



by grossly ignorant men, who never read the books they publish, and who consider nothing but the reputation of authors, or follow implicitly the judgment of experienced readers. Such persons are never led astray by tastes of their own. They never think the public will like a book because *they* happen to like it, or suppose the public interested in a subject because it is interesting to *them*. There are publishers, however, whose tastes and preferences are in such harmony with those of the public, that their own personal approval of a book is a sufficient guide. In the firm of Childs & Peterson, there was much of both kinds of judgment—that which comes of general knowledge, and that which results from a knowledge of the world. Consequently, nearly all of its ventures were successful. They published few books, but they frequently contrived to make a great hit once a year. Mr. Peterson compiled a work from various sources, called “Familiar Science,” which Mr. Childs’ energy and tact pushed to a sale of two hundred thousand copies, secured for it a footing in many schools, which it retains to this day. We all remember with what skill and persistence Mr. Childs trumpeted the brilliant works of Dr. Kane upon “Arctic Exploration,” and how he made us all buy the volumes as they appeared at five dollars, and how glad we were we *had* bought them when we came to read them. Nor was Dr. Kane ill pleased to receive a copyright of about seventy thousand dollars. Parson Brownlow’s book was one of Mr. Childs’ successes. It was not his fault that the book turned out to be absolute trash. He could not foresee that. Before a copy of the work existed, he had so provoked public curiosity, that it sold to the extent of fifty thousand copies. He had the pleasure of handing over to the patriotic author the handsome copyright of fifteen thousand dollars.

Mr. Childs, either by himself, or in connection with partners, was a publisher of books for a dozen years or more; during which he gave the public several works of high utility, involving an outlay such as few young publishers have ever been in a condition



to undertake. No publisher's list has ever contained less of the sensational—Mr. Brownlow's book being his only venture of that kind, and that was an accident of an exceptional period. Among the massively useful books bearing his imprint, there is that truly extraordinary enterprise, "Dr. Allibone's Dictionary of English and American Authors," which is dedicated to Mr. Childs. It is questionable if there has ever been produced by one man a book involving a greater amount of labor, or one containing a smaller proportion of errors, than this colossal dictionary. Often as I have had occasion to use it, I have never done so without a new sense of its wonderful character. Probably when Mr. Childs undertook its publication, there was hardly another publishing house in the world that would have given the laborious author any encouragement; and it is safe to add that, but for the outbreak of the war, he would have pushed it to a compensating sale. Other costly works published by Mr. Childs are "Bouvier's Law Dictionary," "Bouvier's Institutes of American Law," "Sharswood's Blackstone," "Fletcher's Brazil," and "Lossing's Illustrated History of the Civil War."

But it is not a detail of his particular enterprises that is required in a brief sketch like this. It is important to know in what spirit and manner he has conducted these extensive affairs, and what are the real causes of his success in them.

His career has not been all triumph; nor can he, any more than other men, justly claim that his success is due to his unassisted powers. The strongest man needs the aid of his fellows, and he is the strongest man who knows best how to win and deserve that assistance. Such a man as Mr. Childs makes friends. It belongs to his hearty, hopeful, and generous nature to inspire regard in kindred minds; and even minds that have little in common with his own, love to bask in the sunshine of his influence. It so chanced that among the friends who were drawn to him, early in his Philadelphia career, was the celebrated banker, Mr. Anthony J. Drexel, a gentleman whose name in the metropolis of Pennsylvania is suggestive of every thing honorable, liberal, and public-

spirited. Mr. Childs is proud to acknowledge that, at many a crisis in his life, Mr. Drexel's sympathy and ever-ready help have been a tower of strength to him. They have usually been side by side at the turning-points in Mr. Childs' career the capitalist being always prompt to lend the support of his credit and wealth to the execution of Mr. Childs' well-considered schemes.

In the long run, however, a man stands upon his own individual merits. No external aid can long avail if there are radical deficiencies in his own character. It is his own indomitable heart and will that carry every man forward to final victory. "There have been times in my business career," Mr. Childs once said, "when every thing looked discouraging, and many would have given up in despair; but I always worked the harder, and never lost hope."

He was sure to remember a kindness, and was never backward in reciprocating it. It has been a principle with him in business, not to be blind to all interests but his own, and he has endeavored to act in the spirit of the old maxim: "Live and let live." "I have never been aggressive," he sometimes says, "but I am very determined in self-defense." While he has refrained from all operations foreign to his own business, he has given his whole mind to that; shrinking from no labor which its exigencies required, and never considering that any thing was done while any thing remained to do. He thinks that many who started with him in the race have failed to reach any valuable success, merely from not giving their whole attention to their business, unwilling to defer the enjoyment of life until they had earned the right to enjoy. "Meanness," says Mr. Childs, "is not necessary to success in business, but economy *is*." He has been an economist, not only of money, but of his health, his strength, his vital force, the energy and purity of his brain. It has been his happiness to escape those habits which lower the tone of the bodily health and impair the efficiency of the mind—such as smoking and drinking—which, at this moment, lessen the efficient energies of civilized man by, perhaps, one-half! He tells the young men about him that Franklin's

rule for success in business is about the best that can be given—simple as it is. It consists of three words: “Temperance, industry, and frugality.”

During his career as a publisher of books, he never lost sight of his favorite object, the control of a leading daily newspaper. The time came when he could gratify his ambition.

The *Public Ledger* had fallen upon evil days. Started as a penny paper in 1836, the proprietors had been able to keep it at that price for a quarter of a century. But the war, by doubling the cost of material and labor, had rendered it impossible to continue the paper at the original price except at a loss. The proprietors were men naturally averse to change. They clung to the penny feature of their system too long, believing it vital to the prosperity of the *Ledger*. They were both right and wrong. *Cheapness* was vital: but in 1864 a cent for such a sheet as the *Public Ledger* was not a price at all; it was giving it half away. Retaining the original price was carrying a good principle to that extreme which endangered the principle itself; just as we are now putting in peril the principle of cheap government by condemning important servants of the people—judges, mayors, governors, presidents, cabinet ministers, and heads of bureaus—to pinching and precarious penury. Nor were the proprietors then in a condition to superintend a radical change. One of them was dead. Another was absorbed in the management of another enterprise; and the third was indifferent. This firm, once so capable and vigorous, had outlived its opportunity, and the *Public Ledger* was for sale.

The establishment was then losing four hundred and eighty dollars upon every number of the paper which it issued. This was not generally known; the paper looked as prosperous as ever; its circulation was immense, and its columns were crowded with advertisements. And yet there was a weekly loss of three thousand dollars—a hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year. Upon learning this fact, the friends of Mr. Childs, whose opinion he sought, said with decision: don't buy! Nevertheless, he looked the

ground carefully over; he made minute calculations; he kept on his thinking cap day and evening. He bought the *Public Ledger*—the whole of it, just as it stood—for a sum a little exceeding the amount of its annual loss.

The purchase was completed December 5, 1864. A week after, the new proprietor announced the two simple and obviously just changes that were necessary to the prolonged existence of the paper. He doubled its price and increased the advertising rates to the compensating point. The first shock to the establishment was severe: subscribers fell off, and the columns were lightened in some degree of their burden of advertisements. But a daily newspaper of any great importance is to large classes of people a necessity; and the *Public Ledger* was eminently such, for it had been for twenty years the established medium of communication between employers and employed, between buyers and sellers, between bereaved families and their friends, and between landlords and tenants. The subscribers, too, comprehended the reasonableness of the change, and Mr. Childs was not the man to neglect the means of bringing it home to their minds. He knows the power of advertising, and how to use that power. In a few days the tide turned. At the end of a month he made a concession of which no one who does not know Philadelphia intimately can understand the importance: he reduced the paper from two cents a day to ten cents a week. What a trifling matter this seems to us lavish New Yorkers! But Philadelphia—leaving out a few hundred very rich people, who are the same everywhere—is composed of a prodigious number of highly respectable families, whose means are limited, and to whom severe economy is a thing of conscience, necessity, and life-long habit. Not because they earn less than the inhabitants of other cities, but because they are ambitious for their children, and because it is the custom of the place for all but the very poorest people to live with a certain decent and orderly respectability, incompatible with waste. Poverty is not regarded there as an excuse for squalor and dirt. Hence, the change in the cost of



the *Ledger*—the sole luxury to many virtuous families—was really an important stroke of policy, which restored the paper to more than its former ascendancy.

Behold, then, Mr. Childs at length in the enjoyment of the position upon which he had fixed his hopes sixteen years before ! He assumed, at once, personal control of the paper, both as a business and as a vehicle of communication with the public mind. For four years he rarely left the editorial rooms before midnight. Himself a man of the people, in full sympathy with the people, he has conducted the paper in the interests of the people ; and yet there is no paper in the world, the tone of which is more uniformly *unsensational* than that of the *Public Ledger* of Philadelphia. There is a certain sincerity in the editorials which contrasts most pleasingly with the mockery, the chaff, the hypocrisy, and the cowardly indirectness, which are such hideous characteristics of some of the newspapers of New York. Mr. Childs evidently feels that a lie is a lie, that an insult is an insult, and that a calumny is a calumny, whether it be spoken or printed ; and he does not consider that it is less atrocious to inflict a stab at midnight from the safe seclusion of an editorial room, than to take an assassin into pay for a similar purpose. It is an honest, clean, industriously edited paper—an honor to journalism, to Philadelphia, and to its proprietor. Nothing is admitted to its columns, not even an advertisement, which ought not to be read in a well-ordered household. The adoption of this rule by Mr. Childs excluded from the paper a class of advertisements which yielded a revenue of three hundred dollars a week.

The people of Philadelphia have responded to his efforts with a liberality which has enabled him to serve them better and better. A new *Ledger* building, ample in proportions, and furnished with elegant completeness, now adorns the city, and invites the approval of visitors. The public seems sometimes to bestow its favors capriciously—as if indifferent to the worth or worthlessness of those competing for its suffrages. In this instance, the people of Philadelphia have rallied warmly to the support of a man whose ambition



and constant endeavor have been to render them solid and lasting service. No one can patiently examine a few numbers of the *Public Ledger* without perceiving that, in every department of the paper, there is an honest effort to give the reader the most and the best that can be put into the space assigned. It is gratifying to know that a newspaper conducted in this spirit is one of the most profitable in the country.

Mr. Childs, now in the enjoyment of a princely income, honors himself by his constant consideration of the comfort, pleasure, welfare, and dignity of the persons who assist him. He has provided for them apartments to work in as handsome and commodious as the nature of their employment admits, and the building abounds in such conveniences as bath-rooms and ice-fountains. He takes pleasure in compensating faithful service liberally, and loves to see happiness and prosperity around him. He has presented his assistants recently with insurances upon their lives, and has given to the Typographical Society an elegant improved lot in Woodlands Cemetery, besides contributing liberally to the Society's endowment. Care was taken, in furnishing the compositors' room, to give the walls and ceiling the subdued tone most agreeable to the over-taxed eyes of the compositors. On days of festivity, such as the Fourth of July and Christmas, Mr. Childs is accustomed to provide for those in his employment and their families an entertainment of some kind, in which all can participate—the happy effects of which shine in their countenances and animate their minds for many a day after. In a word, his is a generous heart, and finds happiness in diffusing happiness, and loves to make all around and about him sharers in his prosperity.

How much nobler is this than to scrimp and screw for fifty years, blasting all the life within range by a cold, grudging spirit, and then leave behind, as a heavy burden upon posterity, a huge mass of property, which the owner parts with only because he can not carry it with him! Posterity will have care and perplexity enough without being saddled with crude, injudicious bequests. But nearly

the whole efficient population of the globe sustains the relation of employer and employed; and as far as we can discern, this is an unchangeable necessity of human life. Hence we may say, that the welfare and dignity of man depend upon the degree to which the duties involved in this relation are understood and performed. A man in the position of Mr. Childs can, if he will, render the lives of many of those who serve him bitter and shameful; he can discourage them by a hard, pitiless demeanor; he can corrupt them by a bad example; he can wound them by unjust reproaches; he can weaken them by excessive indulgence; he can keep them anxious by his caprice; he can foster ill-will, and relax honest effort by favoritism; or, he can simply hold aloof, and regard his assistants merely as part of the apparatus of his business. Mr. Childs, on the contrary, chooses to be the friend and benefactor of those who labor with him; and as he has himself labored faithfully in every post, from errand boy to chief, he knows where and how to apply the balm that solaces the hearts of the toiling sons of men. It is for *this* that I honor him.







Ever yours

James W. Gerard

Jan. 4" 1863.



## JAMES W. GERARD.

BY L. A. HENDRICK.



HERE is not a man in New York City who holds a nearer and a dearer place in the heart of the public than J. W. Gerard. His field of usefulness has been varied. One thing which makes him desire the city's welfare is that he is not a foreigner or an outsider even but one born in our midst and whose entire interests center here. The following sketch we extract from the New York *Herald*.

Mr. Gerard is of Scotch and French extraction, both his parents being born in Scotland but their parents were among the Huguenots who fled from their lovely land, on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. However, we may claim Mr. Gerard as *truly* American for his grandparents came to our glorious land before the Revolution. During the war they went to Nova Scotia but returned at its close.

The greatest pains were taken with his education, going first through the finest private schools of the city, and then through Columbia College, which was at that time at the height of its glory. His college duties were a delightful and easy task to him. He graduated with honor, being the third in his class. Severe application to study was not to him a necessity in the attainment of high scholarship. Though a finished classical scholar and a fine mathematician, his natural tastes and glowing ambition took a higher range than the dull and dry formulas of the text-books. The indispensable value of these studies to thorough mental discipline he early felt and appreciated; but in his philosophical studies, in *belles lettres*, and in broader and pleasanter fields of general literature he found the most hallowed delight. Studying the mighty

masters of oratory and the intellectual light of the Old World was his pleasure: the works of men who swayed Athens and Sparta in their glory; men who moved nations; men who sang sweet songs for youth and for old age, in their day, and for the same classes for all time; men whose glorious deeds still remain to immortalize their names. Mr. Gerard's sympathy was nevertheless with the living present. He studied men and things as they were presented to him in daily life. His hopes and his ambitions linked themselves with the great unbosomed future with whose revolving cycles and evolutions of the unknown were interwoven his duties, his destiny, his future being, his coming life-battles, and their victories and defeats.

Having taken his degree of Bachelor of Arts—and the records of the college show that he took in order also the degree of Master of Arts; and a few years since, as will be remembered, the college conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, a title which he never assumed—he entered upon the study of law.

Mr. Gerard began his legal studies in the law office of George Griffin, at that time the Gamaliel of the bar, and then in the zenith of his fame. He read law with avidity, and soon had at his fingers' ends, so to speak, the contents of the legal text-books. Its technical principles, its subtle distinctions, and its nice logic speedily became familiar to him. Few law students in their preliminary reading attain a more exact, thorough, and methodized knowledge of the general principles of law. His studies were not confined to the text-books alone; he thoroughly explored the abstruse doctrines of modern tenures and titles, and extended his research, in fact, into every department of equity and jurisprudence. But all this did not satisfy him. An essential part of preliminary legal training he early saw was to be able to acquire the art of speaking with facility and perspicuity. Accordingly he and a few of the associates of his early legal days, Hiram Ketchum, Thomas Fessenden, Ogden Hoffman, and other young lawyers, formed a debating society called the Forum. Their place of meeting was in one of the

largest and best rooms of the old City Hotel on Broadway, near Cedar Street. At first six cents was charged for admission, but the growing popularity of the young and brilliant debaters filled the large room, and, as the receipts were given away in charity, the price of admission was raised to twenty-five cents. Many who afterward became distinguished at the bar made here their first appearance before the public as debaters, and by their practice here in the forensic art acquired that excellence in oratory characterizing their subsequent efforts at the bar. Large numbers still living well remember the efforts of Mr. Gerard, Mr. Hoffman, Hugh Maxwell, Hiram Ketchum, and others, at these weekly discussions. It was a constellation of brilliant talent. The first people in the city went to hear the debates. Often when some specially exciting topic was to be discussed the old Park Theatre, crowded on other nights, would on these nights present a beggarly array of empty benches.

“—The rapid argument  
Soared in gorgeous flight, linking earth  
With heaven by golden chains of eloquence.”

The City Hotel has passed out of existence, and of all the active participants in those early scenes of forensic strife only Mr. Gerard, Mr. Maxwell, and Mr. Ketchum are now living.

The Forum was still in the full tide of its splendid success and growing popularity when Mr. Gerard was admitted to the bar. At this time a bright and dazzling array of great advocates adorned the New York bar. Emmet and Wells, Griffin and Ogden, Jones and Slosson were its shining ornaments—men not only of great acquirements as lawyers, but men of genius and surpassing eloquence, and who cultivated oratory as an important adjunct to their profession. Hiring a humble office in William Street, at a rent of one hundred dollars a year, he placed in it a desk, gave the utmost compass of display to his limited law library, put up his sign, and waited for clients. For some time none came. As he said in his speech at the banquet given him, he waited with patience, and

wondered at the stupidity of people in not employing him. Every lawyer has, however, his first case, and he had his.

Talent, industry, and obstinate perseverance formed the basis of Mr. Gerard's eminent success as a lawyer. The advice he gave to young lawyers in his banquet speech tells the whole story. The pathway he indicated as the one they should choose is the one he chose himself. He showed them how genius avails but little in getting into practice—how men of great genius rarely make great lawyers—how energy, untiring perseverance, and patience are the elements that enter into a lawyer's success. He also advised them to become masters of the facts, not minding much the law, but leaving the latter to the judges. His theory is not to cross-examine too much, and not to save all the energies for the summing up, but make the opening equally effective. As a general rule, he thinks the colloquial the most effective style of addressing juries. Such is the programme he long since mapped out for himself.

His style of speaking, both in the courts and out of them, is his own, borrowed from no one—an imitation of no one. Simplicity of diction is its most striking feature, and an affluence of language that never tires. To him may be applied the line of the old Latin poet:—

*"Nihil tetigit quod non ornavit."*

Although never writing out his speeches, legal, political, or otherwise, he has always shown the happiest faculty of saying the happiest things on all occasions. The letters of Governor Hoffman, Judge Latrobe, Chief Justice Hunt, ex-Attorney-General Evarts, and Judge Nelson read at the banquet testimonial, and the speeches of Mr. Cutting, Judge Blatchford, David Paul Brown, David Dudley Field, Luther R. Marsh, the late James T. Brady, and others, set forth in words of glowing eulogium the salient points of his character, and the causes that contributed to give him his proud eminence at the bar. It is unnecessary to repeat these kindly-expressed and well-merited eulogiums, as showing the basis of his



successful career. There is a characteristic, however, largely contributing to this result, to which allusion should be made, and that is, that no person, however poor or humble, ever required his services that he did not command them with the same zeal he would have given them to the richest and the most powerful. Again, he did not belong to that class of lawyers who—

"So there were quarrels, cared not for the cause,  
Knowing they must be settled by the laws;"

but, on the contrary, he always sought to avoid litigation and only advised to resort to it when every other means failed to accomplish the ends of justice. Altogether the cause of his success is clear—a disposition glowing with sunshine, a perpetual geniality, lively humor, integrity, talents, zeal, energy, and great capacity for labor.

A voluminous book might be written revealing the wit and humor of Mr. Gerard. No matter what the case or its surroundings, he always managed to bring into pleasant prominence its humorous points. While the mock gravity of the owl was foreign to his nature, he never strove to be witty. His wit was spontaneous, quick, lightning flashes—the fire struck from the flinty rock. His humor was perpetual—the long summer day of golden sunshine. It was as much in his manner as in any thing he said. From the multitude of cases showing his humorous traits as a lawyer which we might give we will cite but one. On one occasion he was cross-examining a party who had previously been on very intimate terms with his client, but were then estranged and hostile. The witness had evinced inimical feelings to such an extent in giving his testimony that he thought it best to make an explanation.

"My relations with the plaintiff," said the witness, "were once of the closest character; we were, in fact, like brothers; but now—"

"But now you are brothers in law," interrupted Mr. Gerard, finishing the sentence before the witness could go further.



The circumstances connected with Mr. Gerard's first criminal case, which was the defense of a boy fourteen years of age, indicted for stealing a canary bird, led him to think that something might be done for the reformation of juvenile criminals. He was asked to deliver a public address. He visited all the city prisons, saw how old and young offenders were mixed up together, consulted the police justices, and from the mass of the material thus collected took as the subject of his address the necessity of a house of refuge for juvenile delinquents. The proposition met at once with public approval, and the House of Refuge was built. What the House of Refuge is to-day need not be told. Its reformatory influence is most salutary. Thousands of young offenders, who, if brought in contact with persons hardened in crime, would themselves become hardened criminals, are here educated for future usefulness in life by being taught trades, and thence go forth into the world thoroughly reformed and prepared to become good citizens. It is now one of the most useful institutions in the country, and has been adopted in nearly every State in the Union.

The spirit of public enterprise forming such a large element in Mr. Gerard's career has in nothing shown itself more effectively than in his efforts to increase the efficiency of our police force. In the course of a European tour he stopped in London some time, and while there was particularly struck with the efficiency of the London police as contrasted with the inefficiency of the police of this city. It became his settled conviction that the wearing of uniforms would give additional respect to the men, and in every way be attended with good results. On coming back, he wrote a series of able articles in the *Journal of Commerce*, spoke repeatedly in public on the topic, and in every way sought to impress upon the city government the importance of adopting his suggestions, and particularly the uniforming of the police and making it a military organization. Everybody remembers how our police used to look in their shabby coats of many colors and every variety of hat and cap, and with no badge of office but a star at the breast, that was

half the time in an eclipse. Having convinced the Police Commissioners of the utility of the proposed uniform they ordered it to be worn, but the men rebelled and refused to wear it, calling it Mr. Gerard's "d——d aristocratic livery." About this time, Mrs. Coventry Waddell gave a fancy ball at her residence in Fifth Avenue.

"The police object to wearing the new uniform," said Mr. Gerard to Mr. Matsell, who was then Chief of Police. "Will you lend me a suit? I am not ashamed to wear it."

"Certainly," replied the chief; but where are you going to wear it?"

"At a ball on Fifth Avenue."

"That is a fashionable place to introduce the uniform," said the robust and smiling chief.

Mr. Matsell gave him a complete uniform, hat, club, and all. The police heard of it, and said if Mr. Gerard was not ashamed to wear it they certainly ought not to be. And so it was adopted without further objection. In almost every city of the United States police uniforms are now worn.

A somewhat memorable event in the history of Mr. Gerard is his crusade some years ago against newsboys. He does not object to newsboys; thinks them a great institution—an indispensable institution in our nineteenth century of civilization. His only objection was to their vociferous style of crying out Sunday papers on Sunday morning, waking everybody from sleep and disturbing ministers and congregations at the Sabbath worship. The Sunday officers were powerless against the noisy urchins, and Mr. Gerard, determined to abate the nuisance, directed an officer, although he had no warrant, to arrest an editor, who, as an exponent of the rights of newsboys, had taken on himself to cry out and sell papers. On Mr. Gerard promising to indemnify the officer, the latter arrested the editor and marched him off to the Tombs, where he was thrown into a cell, to answer a charge of disorderly conduct. An action for false imprisonment was brought by the editor. We will not

pursue the case through all its lengthy details. There were several trials and appeals. Mr. Gerard carried his point, and was successful in abating the nuisance. It was in contemplation to give Mr. Gerard a piece of plate for his success in the matter, but he never accepted the honor.

No man in the city has taken a livelier interest in the cause of public education than Mr. Gerard. It has been no ephemeral, spasmodic interest. It has been the interest of a lifetime. His warm and generous and sunny nature has a special affinity for children. His soul overflows with tenderness and love for them. He is never so happy as when surrounded with their smiling faces. With his growing years this love has grown in its intensity, and in the sweetness and purity of his devotion to their interests. For over twenty years he has been an officer of our public schools. No one has contributed more than he to perfecting our present splendid system of popular education. There is not a public school in this city every child of which does not know his face, and look more smiling and happy when he comes. As is well known, he has been in the habit of delivering frequent lectures to the older children, and he always has a pleasant word to say to all, from the youngest to the oldest. Our public schools was the closing theme of his great banquet speech. His soul dilated with joy, and a beautiful and almost sacred inspiration clothed his utterances. No more beautiful thought and more beautifully expressed was ever uttered than that embodied in his his closing words, which we can not refrain from quoting: "There is one hour in the day, which is sacred in this great city, and which is enough to redeem it from much of its sin and wickedness. As the city bells toll out the hour of nine in the morning a hundred thousand children are engaged in prayer in more than a hundred lofty buildings; a hundred thousand tongues, with eyes cast upward to the skies, are repeating in solemn, subdued accents that beautiful prayer to their God which our Saviour taught on earth; a hundred thousand voices pour forth a solemn chant in praise of the great Creator who has given them the light

“of another day, and the sweet music of children’s voices pouring forth strains of solemn music is more acceptable to Heaven than any holy incense ever thrown from silver censer. There is sublimity in the thought.” His interest in our public schools and his labors for their benefit will only terminate with his life.

Never having been an active politician, it requires but few lines to give a summary of Mr. Gerard’s political life. He was a Federalist of the old school and became a member of the Whig party, but when that became an abolition party, under the leadership of Seward and others, he left it, and although he has since acted with the Democracy, but not with its ring by any means, he has always been independent and voted for the best men, without regard to party. Having almost uniformly acted with the minority, he has never been put up for any office, nor held any except that of Inspector of Public Schools. It is well known, however, that he has never had any political nor judicial aspirations, although once offered the nomination for Congress, and once that of Judge of the Superior Court. Being devoted to his profession he would not give it up for office of any kind.

In early life Mr. Gerard was married to a daughter of Governor Sumner, of Massachusetts, and sister of General Sumner. They had four children, of whom only two—a son and daughter—are now living. His wife died some five years ago, leaving him a large landed estate in Boston. Since 1844 he has lived at his present residence on Gramercy Park, then the most northerly house in New York, and the second stone house in this city. He is an Episcopalian, and attends Dr. Washburne’s church. He is as free from bigotry in religion as he is from partisanship in politics. In private life he is the most companionable of men. In society his address is the most charming that can be imagined, and its *bonhomie* irresistible. He keeps up with the times, its literature, its socialities, its amusements, its busy, animated life. No one is more often to be seen at the opera, concert, or lecture room if there is promise of a good evening’s entertainment. Advancing years do not dampen his



spirits nor his vivacity. He has always known how to enjoy himself, and in this regard shows no departure from the habits of a lifetime. Next to his taste for the opera and music is his passion for fine paintings. He has several times made the tour of all the picture galleries in Europe, and the walls of his parlors are adorned with some of the finest works of the old masters. There is, in fact, no more valuable collection of private paintings in this city. Everybody knows the *personnel* of Mr. Gerard. Probably no one is more widely known. As we have already stated, he is in the enjoyment of excellent health, and it is to be hoped he may be long spared to scatter about him the blessings of geniality and public usefulness and charities, which are abundant, though unostentatious.

On Mr. Gerard's withdrawal in 1868 from the practice of his profession, there was a magnificent banquet given him at Delmonico's. It was a tribute unprecedented in its character—a tribute to his eminent abilities as a lawyer, to his zeal and unbending integrity in his profession, and to the general kindliness of disposition he has shown at all times during his long and honorable service at the bar—a tribute of which any man may be justly proud. This tribute—magnificent as it was, and while all the great legal luminaries of our city and the leading notabilities of other professions graced the banquet with their presence; and, while learning, taste, wit, imagination, and eloquence gave force and brilliancy to the speeches—is only feebly expressive of the more extended and broader universality of regard entertained for Mr. Gerard as a citizen. His fame has gone beyond the boundaries of court rooms, preparing briefs and opening cases, examining witnesses and summing up, that climax of legal effort in which the lawyer summons up all the tact and brilliancy and eloquence and power there is in him to accomplish a verdict for his client. His name has long been a household word. His activity of enterprise as a citizen has been sleepless. No one need to be told that to him we owe the establishment of the House of Refuge, that it was through his efforts our police were uniformed, and that to his devotion to our educational



interests we are mainly indebted for the present perfected system of our public schools. He has not stopped here. In all matters of public interest his voice and influence have been heard and felt. Ennobling charities, reforms in government and politics, literature, science and art, each have always had in him a strong and faithful ally. A pure and broad philanthropy welling up from a nature warm and generous and bubbling over with kindly sympathies, and a humor, giving perpetually pleasing beauty and brightness to his life, pervades his whole soul and being. His life has been an active one in his profession and out of it. To him *labor est voluptas*. He can not live without labor. His labors in his profession were always on the side of justice and right. His labors out of the profession have been unceasing labors of love for all that elevates manhood and makes life and goodness and joy synonyms of each other and sweetly kin to all that is pure and true and beautiful. A life made up of his varied professional experiences, and electric with the vitalizing influences of his genial temperament, sprightly humor, and expansive benevolence, is replete with incidents giving to narrative a livelier glow than the most vivacious records of fiction. In conclusion we give a part of his speech at the banquet:—

“I have no apprehension that I shall slide down into listless apathy. My time will be fully occupied. I shall have enough to do. I go from the bustle of the law, not into listlessness, but into a large and active scene of usefulness. I shall give the principal part of my time and energies to the public schools—the largest and most splendid system of popular education, which is known in any part of the world; and that is one great motive of my giving up the practice of the law. I have been for twenty years a peripatetic educational missionary; and although my especial ground is confined to the Fifteenth and Eighteenth wards, yet my walks have extended over the whole city from the Battery to Harlem; from the East to the North rivers; and I intend to devote my energies to the welfare and interest of the rising generation of the working classes of the city. The school system as organized in this city is

perfect; it requires no change, no amendment: and only let the politicians keep clear of it, and its success will be certain.

“The doors of its attractive school-houses are opened to receive, without money and without price, the children not only of the native, but of all immigrants, no matter from what part of the world they come or what language they speak; no matter what is their nationality, what their social condition, or their religion. The doors are open to Jew and Gentile, and Christians of all denominations—the Protestant, the Catholic, the Episcopalian, the Presbyterian, Methodist, or Baptist—all meet on *neutral* ground, and they acquire as good a practical education (both sexes) as any boarding or day-school in the country or in any country can afford. To a gentleman of any taste or refinement, nothing is more agreeable, and I may say instructive, than to pass an hour or two in the morning in the class-room, and see the development of mind and the ambitious strife between the different nationalities, of the masses of children, who, with happy faces, go through their exercises under a mild, but beautiful and gentle discipline, with no harsh or loud orders given, but the discipline of the whole school led by the music of a piano or the sound of a little bell. In any discussions relative to the merits of the public schools, remember that *universal intelligence* is the *bulwark* of a republic, and if you will have *universal suffrage*, you must have its antidote, *universal education*.

“I shall now conclude my remarks. This beautiful banquet will ever be a green spot in my memory, which I never, never can forget. It is the greatest compliment could possibly be paid me. It is unprecedented to a mere lawyer who never wore the ermine or held judicial office, and was simply in the rank and file of the bar. As we now part, I wish you all, individually, health, happiness, and prosperity for many years to come. May your lines be cast in pleasant places. May you be plagued with few of the ills of life which flesh is heir to. May your paths be strewed with roses, and may there be but few thorns among them.”





אלכסנדר מייזל

## W. H. WEBB.

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R. WEBB was born in the city of New York, June 19, 1816, of parents whose ancestors were English and Huguenot on the paternal side, and Huguenot and Scotch on the maternal. The former had settled in Connecticut and the latter in New York long before our War of the Revolution.

His father, Isaac Webb, was born in Stamford, Connecticut. He removed to the city of New York with his parents, when quite young, and early engaged in the business of ship-building. He afterward became the leading member of the well-known ship-building firms of Isaac Webb & Co. and Webb & Allen of New York. For several years, he was also associated with the renowned ship-builder Henry Eckford, prominent during and after the War of 1812.

The subject of our sketch received his education at the private schools of New York and New Jersey. For a while he attended the grammar school of Columbia College, where he won the regard of the professors and attained the highest rank in mathematics.

In his early years he evinced little fondness for youthful sports, but rather a taste for rare and beautiful natural curiosities, collections of which were made during his school-boy days.

At the age of thirteen, our future ship-builder constructed his first boat (a small skiff), during his summer vacation. Others followed (among them a paddle-boat), being built during the following two years.

The fondness displayed by the son for such pursuits was not pleasing to the father. When the summer vacation came round, the latter intimated that he wished his son, who was then fifteen



years of age, to resort during the vacation only to the molding-loft of his father's ship-yard for occupation and amusement. A molding-loft is a building expressly arranged for laying off plans of vessels in full size, which are built from patterns made after these plans.

Here, much to the surprise and regret of the parents and his school-teachers, with whom he was a favorite and who had formed other plans of life for the boy, he determined to learn the art of constructing ships. He therefore sought permission, which was never given, to stay in the ship-yard. The lad, however, was suffered to remain at the molding-loft, his parents hoping that a brief experience would suffice and a return to school follow. But their hopes were doomed to disappointment.

Exposure at the yard during the next winter, caused (as he was not robust) severe illness. On recovery, parents and friends endeavored to dissuade the boy from his purpose, but without avail, and work in the ship-yard was resumed.

Two years had rolled round and the age of seventeen was reached, by which time the boy discovered he had embraced a profession most difficult to learn, requiring constant and extraordinary application. He was now ready to relinquish his object, fearing that his dreams of becoming a master of the business would never be realized. But remembrance of the determination shown in the beginning, contrary to his parents' desire, knowledge of the humiliation attending an abandonment after such action, together with the fact that others had succeeded, and therefore he ought to succeed, induced the boy to persevere.

Nearly six years were spent in constant work by day, and hard study at night, in order to obtain the scientific and practical knowledge necessary to become a complete master of the art of ship-building. He took only one week of vacation during this time, which was principally spent in a visit of examination to the dry-dock at the Boston Navy Yard, then new and the first of the kind built in this country.

At the early age of twenty, having been previously intrusted

with the direction of principal portions of the work in the construction of ships and the management of men, he undertook, under a sub-contract made with his father, the building of the New York and Liverpool packet-ship *Oxford* of the old Black Ball Line.

He continued the business of constructing vessels as sub-contractor until the age of twenty-three, having in the mean time built the Havre packet-ship *Duchesse d'Orléans* (still doing good service), the Liverpool packet-ship *New York*, and two smaller vessels. About this time the young man's health began to fail, and he took a trip to Liverpool in the last-named ship on her first voyage—partly with a view of becoming more fully acquainted with the performance of a ship at sea. After a short tour of Great Britain and a visit to the Continent, he was unexpectedly recalled by the death of his father, whose business affairs were found to be involved.

Soon after his return home, he formed a partnership, April 1, 1840, with his father's former associate, under the new firm of Webb & Allen. This lasted three years, when Mr. Allen retired, and the then prosperous business has since been conducted by Mr. Webb alone with increasing and remarkable success. He has built, up to the present time, one hundred and thirty-four vessels. Many of these are London, Liverpool, and Havre packets, as well as steam-ships of the largest tonnage and in the aggregate greater than that of any other constructor in this country.

Mr. Webb never built ships on speculation, but always under contract. Having early given evidence of his ability in the modeling of steam-vessels, he was engaged to construct the first steam-ships to run between New York and Savannah. He also built the first large steamer for the New Orleans trade, as well as the first steamer for the Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company, carrying the United States Mail between Panama and San Francisco. He constructed all the steamers subsequently built for that company. The first steamer that entered the Golden Gate (harbor of San Francisco), also the first three steamers selected to carry the first United

States Mail from New York to China, *via* Aspinwall, Panama, and San Francisco, were built by Mr. Webb.

About the year 1850 he conceived the idea of constructing a model vessel of war for the United States navy, and application was made at Washington with this view. This application brought an offer from Mr. Dobbin, Secretary of the Navy, for the construction of a model steam-frigate, but on the condition that the vessel should be built in the United States' government dock-yards. This condition was so inconvenient, on account of other engagements, and the jealous hostility manifested by the Bureau of Construction at Washington was so great, that Mr. Webb had to abandon his cherished idea.

Application was next made to the Emperor of the French, who listened favorably to Mr. Webb's proposal, but returned answer, that the objections made by the Marine Department were such that he declined ordering a vessel to be built out of their own dock-yards.

Determined to pursue his object, Mr. Webb sent in the spring of 1851 an agent to St. Petersburg, with proposals to the Russian government, who returned the same year unsuccessful. He reported sufficient encouragement, however, to induce his being sent again the following year.

During the agent's second visit, the Russian government considered Mr. Webb's proposals to construct for them one or more large model war-steamers, but were disinclined to treat with other than the principal himself. Something of the hesitancy on the part of the government arose from the fact that the then Russian minister at Washington, Mr. Bodisco, would not favor the project, having (as he said) had too much trouble with parties in this country who had previously obtained contracts from his government.

The favorable report forwarded by his agent, induced Mr. Webb to repair to St. Petersburg in person, during the summer of 1852, at great inconvenience to his business at home. On arriving there, he found his agent had misled him, and that the Emperor Nicholas,

for the same reasons that influenced his minister, Mr. Bodisco, had decided not to order a vessel to be built in America.

This was a dilemma: the apparent defeat of the long-cherished object of his visit, which was known to his countrymen and entailed much loss of time and sacrifice of business, was crushing to the pride and hopes of Mr. Webb. However, he decided to make further efforts to gain his end. Here the determination of character shown in the boy was evinced in the man.

Other proposals were made and additional inducements offered to the naval committee, who expressed a willingness to consider them, but saying it would be more than their heads were worth to receive new proposals without orders from higher authority. The influence of the Grand Duke Constantine, General Admiral of the Russian navy, was now sought. But as he was leaving for the annual review of the fleet at sea, Mr. Webb was obliged to suffer a vexatious delay.

On his return, the grand duke accorded a personal interview, when he was so favorably impressed, that he promised (provided Mr. Webb would agree to deliver the vessel, when built, at Cronstadt) to bring the subject once more to the notice of the emperor. This condition, which entailed enormous risk and responsibility, having been agreed to, the matter was again referred to the naval committee. The latter soon made a favorable report to the general admiral, and the result was that the emperor was induced to rescind the order previously given. Mr. Webb then left St. Petersburg, in six weeks after his arrival, with an order for the construction of a large steam line-of-battle ship after his proposed model and plans, as well as other orders of magnitude.

Immediately on his return home, Mr. Webb commenced the necessary preparations for the construction of the first ship; but before sufficient materials could be collected for the building of so large a vessel, the war between Russia and the Allies (England, France, and Turkey) broke out and put a stop to the work. The neutrality laws of the United States rendered questionable the pro-



priety of proceeding under the contract. On the restoration of peace, the work under the contract was resumed, but upon a different plan and a new model, designed and submitted by Mr. Webb, with a less number of guns, though of larger caliber and mounted on fewer decks. This idea, originating with him and presenting great advantages over the plans formerly accepted, has since been adopted in the navies of all maritime countries.

The vessel was built strictly in accordance with these plans and this model, notwithstanding the Russian officers, who had been sent to America to superintend her construction and who had remained in this country during the Crimean War, withheld their approval. But when the vessel was tried at sea, they were not sparing of their expressions of satisfaction. Her performances exceeded, especially in the matter of speed, all expectations and the promises made to the general admiral when the contract was entered into.

On the 21st day of September, 1858, just one year after the laying of the keel, this screw frigate of 72 guns, 7,000 tons displacement, and named the *General Admiral*—in honor of the Grand Duke Constantine—was launched from Mr. Webb's yard in the city of New York. It has proved to be the fastest vessel of war yet built (except the Steam Ram *Dunderberg*, since constructed by him), having made the passage from New York to Cherbourg in the unprecedented time of eleven days and eight hours, mostly under steam alone.

Mr. Webb delivered this magnificent and most powerful steamer at the port of Cronstadt, in person, in the summer of 1859. He received from the imperial Russian government very valuable testimonials, both written and substantial, of the satisfaction with which they received the vessel, as well as the high opinion entertained of the manner in which all promises and the details of the contract were carried out. The unexampled success of the frigate *General Admiral* soon became known to the naval authorities in Europe, and especially attracted the attention of the Italian govern-



ment, which had just about that time been created through the agency of Count Cavour. This eminent and far-sighted statesman invited Mr. Webb to visit Turin, then the seat of government. The latter here entered into contract with the royal Italian government to construct two iron-clad screw frigates, each of thirty-six large guns and six thousand tons displacement, afterward named the *Re d' Italia* and the *Re di Portogallo*.

The contract for these two frigates having been made just previous to the breaking out of the Rebellion in the United States, great obstacles interposed, consequently, to its fulfillment, especially as these were the first iron-clads ever built in this country. Nevertheless, both vessels were delivered within the time agreed upon.

Mr. Webb was engaged at the same time in rebuilding and refitting for war purposes many steam-vessels for his own government, as well as constructing several large steamers for the merchant service.

The *Re d' Italia* was the first iron-clad steamer that crossed the Atlantic, and gave proofs of extraordinary sea-going qualities and speed. The same may be said of her sister ship, the *Re di Portogallo*. The former made the passage in the winter season from New York to Naples, a distance of over five thousand miles, in eighteen days and twenty hours, mostly under steam alone.

The literal fulfillment of the contract for these two frigates and their performances were so satisfactory to the Italian government, that King Victor Emmanuel conferred on Mr. Webb the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus (one of the oldest in Europe) as a token of his esteem.

While the frigates were in course of construction, Mr. Webb accepted an order from our own government to build a screw ram of large tonnage, expressly adapted for the heaviest armament, to possess the highest speed and the best sea-going qualities—the model and plans to be designed by himself.

The task thus imposed was a very difficult one, never having been accomplished before; but Mr. Webb in a short time presented

a model and plans entirely original, designed by himself, for the consideration and approval of the naval authorities at Washington. The plans were submitted to a board of naval experts, consisting of the chiefs of the bureaus of both construction and engineering, and others, by whom they were condemned.

Here again arose a difficulty, Mr. Webb offering his opinions and experience in opposition to those of the Navy Department, and insisting that the experts were wrong and could not appreciate the advantages of his plan. He persevered till the then Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Welles, relying entirely on Mr. Webb, entered into contract with him for the construction of that remarkable vessel known as the *Dunderberg*. Its dimensions are three hundred and seventy-eight feet on deck, sixty-eight feet breadth of beam, and thirty-two feet depth of hold. It has a displacement of seventy-two hundred tons, being the largest iron-clad yet built. It also affords more room for fuel, stores, provisions, as well as accommodation for officers and crew, with a less draft of water, than any other large armored vessel of war.

The performances of this ship surprised the Navy Department and the country, surpassing all the promises made by Mr. Webb, as well as the requirements of the contract. Her speed has not yet been equaled in any vessel of war, being fifteen knots at sea fully armed and in commission.

The model of this iron-clad is new and distinct from the turret or Monitor system. It embodies many novelties, as well as a ram of peculiar construction. The engines have also several new and important features.

With her extraordinary speed, enormous weight of broadside battery (four thousand and twenty-four pounds of solid shot), and the prow, her destructive power is immense—far greater than that of any other ship ever yet constructed.

The Rebellion having ended before the completion of this vessel, the Secretary of the Navy favored Mr. Webb's proposition to be allowed to sell her to some foreign government. With this view,

Mr. Webb procured the passage of an act of Congress, directing the Secretary of the Navy to release the former from his contract. This encountered decided opposition on the part of General Grant, Secretary Stanton, and others, who said so powerful a vessel of war ought never to be allowed to become the property of another power.

Mr. Webb, now enabled to treat with other governments for the sale of his steamer, soon found applicants, and without much delay sold her to the Emperor of the French for a larger sum than had been agreed to be paid by the United States. As the purchase of the *Dunderberg* provided only for delivery at the port of New York, the French Admiralty engaged Mr. Webb to deliver her at Cherbourg. He sailed contrary to the advice of his friends, who seemed to think it a perilous undertaking in a vessel of such novel construction. The *Dunderberg* arrived safely at the port of Cherbourg after a rough passage of fourteen days.

Mr. Webb has received from high naval authorities of France, also from the Emperor Napoleon, assurances of their great satisfaction with the performances of the *Dunderberg* (now *Rochambeau*), his majesty having promised to confer the Order of the Legion of Honor on its constructor.

Among the vessels since built by Mr. Webb are the steamers *Bristol* and *Providence* running from New York on the route to Boston, being the largest of their class and magnificently fitted up. They are the first of this class ever built by Mr. Webb, and their models differ from those heretofore constructed for the trade by others. They were consequently objected to by experts, and their performances awaited with much interest. Suffice it to say, that at their first trials they surpassed in speed any steamers previously built, accomplishing twenty miles per hour continuously.

Our constructor was employed by the Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company to build the model steamer (afterward called the *China*) for their new line to run between San Francisco and China. This vessel, one of the largest merchant-steamers ever constructed in this country, accommodates twelve hundred passengers, and carries at

the same time about two thousand tons of freight. It also combines the greatest strength with the highest speed. New elements of strength, originated by Mr. Webb, were introduced in the construction of this ship. She has encountered several hurricanes in the Chinese and Japanese seas, and performed wonders in the opinion of nautical men.

To enumerate all the important vessels that have been constructed by our subject during the past thirty years, would be a tedious task. However, we may mention the *Guy Mannering* (Liverpool packet), the first full three-deck merchant vessel built in this country; and the ship *Ocean Monarch*, possessing the greatest freight capacity of any ever constructed up to the present time. She has received on board over seven thousand bales of cotton at one loading, drawing no more than eighteen and a half feet of water.

Among the few clippers built by this gentleman are the *Challenge*, *Comet*, *Invincible*, and *Young America*. These are all celebrated, one of them (the *Comet*), under the command of Captain Gardner, having made five successive voyages, averaging one hundred days, between New York and San Francisco; and one voyage from San Francisco to New York in seventy-six days. This is the shortest passage ever made between the two ports.


In addition to the building of vessels, Mr. Webb has been engaged in the steamship business, having run an opposition line of steamers for several years between New York and San Francisco. However, he finally amalgamated his interests with those of the Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company, and his line was withdrawn. At present, he is running the only American steamers in the European trade, and recently sent the first American steamer into the Baltic.

He now purposes establishing a line of steam-ships to run between San Francisco and Australia, *via* Honolulu and other islands in the Pacific Ocean. Such a record of successful enterprise, in an important and a difficult department of business, requiring mental qualities of a high order, as also indomitable perseverance, is its own eulogy, and stamps Mr. Webb as a man of progress.



## HON. EDWARDS PIERREPONT.

BY F. H. GREER.

UDGE PIERREPONT\* is of an old Connecticut family, being a descendant of James Pierrepont, one of the founders of Yale College. He is a native of North Haven, and was graduated at Yale College, in the class of 1837, with very high honors. His legal education was received at the New Haven Law School, of which Judge Daggett was then the head.

In 1840 he went to Columbus, Ohio, and became the partner of P. B. Wilcox, a distinguished lawyer of that city. After five years he returned to practice in New York, and in 1846 he married the daughter of Samuel A. Willoughby, her mother being of the old Dutch family of De Bevoise, in Brooklyn.

In 1857 he was elected Judge of the Superior Court of New York, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Chief Justice Oakley. In 1860 he resigned his seat upon the bench and resumed the practice of the law, and has, for many years, been one of the most eminent men at the New York bar.

Until the breaking out of the war he had always been a Democrat, but from the first he took an active part against the Rebellion. He was a member of the Union Defense Committee, and a zealous supporter of the administration of Mr. Lincoln. In 1862 he was appointed, with General Dix, to try the prisoners of state, then confined in the various prisons and forts of the Federal government.

\* *Pierrepont* is the old English mode of spelling the name; in this country many shortened it to *Pierpont*: the original and correct spelling is now pretty generally restored.



In 1864 he was one of the most active in organizing the War Democrats in favor of the re-election of Abraham Lincoln.

In 1867 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention of the State of New York, and one of the Judiciary Committee.

In the spring of 1867 he was employed by the Attorney-General and the Secretary of State, to conduct the prosecution on the part of the government against John H. Surratt, indicted for aiding in the murder of President Lincoln. This celebrated trial commenced before the United States District Court in the city of Washington on the 10th day of June, and lasted until the 10th day of August, 1867.

In the Presidential contest of 1868, Judge Pierrepont was an ardent supporter of General Grant, making very large contributions in money, and effective speeches upon the Republican side.

General Grant upon his accession to the Presidency in 1869 appointed Judge Pierrepont, Attorney of the United States for the Southern District of New York, which office he resigned in July, 1870.

The Pierrepont family are of Norman origin. At the time of the Conquest, Robert de Pierrepont came over to England with the Conqueror. The family name was Robert; Pierrepont was the designation or title; the head of the family taking the name of the castle and estates, which derived their name from a *stone-bridge* built in Normandy in the time of Charlemagne, to take the place of a ferry, which was then considered a great work. In the time of Edward I., Sir Henry de Pierrepont, possessed of large landed estates, married Annora de Manvers by whom he acquired the Lordship of Holme in the County of Nottingham, now called Holme-Pierrepont.

Sir George Pierrepont, of Holme-Pierrepont, had three sons: from the elder was descended the Earls of Kingston; and from the Earls, the Dukes of Kingston. From the younger, was descended John Pierrepont, who came to Roxbury, now a part of Boston, and his eldest son was the Rev. James Pierrepont, of New Haven,

whose descendant, eldest in the male line, was the rightful heir to the dignities and estates of the second Duke of Kingston, who was grandson to the first duke, and who died without issue just before the American Revolution; which event prevented the recovery of the titles and estates by the American branch of the Pierrepont family, and cast the estate upon the female line of the English branch.

Lady Frances Pierrepont, grand-daughter of the first Duke of Kingston, married Sir Philip Meadows, and her son, Charles Meadows, on the death of the last duke, assumed the name of Pierrepont and took the estates in right of his wife, though he could not inherit the titles of the Pierrepont family. The present Earl Manvers is the son of Charles Meadows and grandson to Lady Frances Pierrepont.

Lady Mary Pierrepont, afterward the celebrated Lady Mary Montagu, was the eldest daughter of the first Duke of Kingston, and her daughter married the Marquis of Bute, from which marriage came in direct line the present Marquis of Bute.

The Rev. James Pierrepont, of New Haven, had six sons and two daughters. Through this common ancestor the families of Pierrepont, Edwards, and Dwight are connected. Sarah, daughter of the Rev. James Pierrepont, was married to the eminent divine, President Jonathan Edwards. The celebrated Pierrepont Edwards was her son. Judge Ogden Edwards, of New York, and Governor Henry W. Edwards, of Connecticut, were her grandsons. The late Henry Pierrepont Edwards, judge of the Supreme Court of New York, was her great-grandson.

Timothy Dwight, D. D., so long the distinguished President of Yale College, was her grandson, and from him is descended Hon. Theodore W. Dwight, Professor of Law, in the city of New York. The Hon. Theodore Dwight Woolsey, now the learned and eminent President of Yale College, is directly descended from the same stock.

Judge Pierrepont, of New York, the subject of this sketch, is a

direct descendant of Joseph, the third son of the Rev. James Pierrepont. William C. Pierrepont, of Pierrepont Manor, and Henry E. Pierrepont, of Brooklyn, are direct descendants of Hezekiah, the sixth son of the Rev. James Pierrepont.

The original portraits of the Rev. James Pierrepont and Mary his wife, are in the possession of Judge E. K. Foster, of New Haven, who is a direct descendant, through the female line, of the sixth son of the Rev. James Pierrepont.

Judge Pierrepont ranks high as an impressive and eloquent speaker. He is a cogent logical reasoner, and an able debater. His clear utterances, his earnest manner, his dignified, polished diction, render him at all times an agreeable and pleasing speaker. He is quiet, fond of literature, and a close student. In addressing public audiences, he commands the closest attention. His private life is without a blemish. His independent nature, and his devotion to a principle, command the respect of his political opponents. He has always dared to pursue the course his sense suggested.

He is exclusive in his social taste, but with a high standard of integrity; more proud than vain, and more cordial than familiar. Intimately known but to few, he is respected by all as a gentleman of culture and of elevated character. He has, for some years, been prominent in public affairs, and distinguished among the foremost in the legal profession: noted for his clear perceptions, energy, and strong common-sense, he is much employed in important business.

He started with the best advantages of education, and has continued to be exceedingly industrious. Nature gave him a remarkably cool and even temper, which nothing disturbs; this, united with firm courage and great determination, has contributed to his success. Few men are more self-poised or self-reliant, and none more completely follow their own judgment, or more readily take the responsibility and accept the consequences of their own acts.






L. H. P. Smith.  
Delawarefield Smith.



## HON. E. DELAFIELD SMITH.

BY GEORGE P. ANDREWS,

*Assistant Attorney of the United States during the official terms of District Attorneys Theodore Sedgwick, James I. Roosevelt, E. Delafield Smith, and Daniel S. Dickinson.*

T was the glory of the United States, that as early as the year 1820, their national Congress declared the Slave Trade piracy, and threatened its infamous participants with the penalty of death. It was the shame of the Republic that from that time till 1861, a period of forty-one years, a law which the publicists of the world had eulogized, remained a dead letter. Ships had been seized and mariners arrested; naval officers had been active and marshals demonstrative; but no prosecuting officer had followed the one to condemnation and sale, nor the other to conviction and execution. It was reserved to E. Delafield Smith, District Attorney of the United States at New York during the administration of Abraham Lincoln, a young and untitled lawyer, to bring to the scaffold, after the iniquity of a third voyage, the captain of a slave ship.

Humanity had long demanded a terrible example to deter cupidity from this cruel crime. The difficulties of proof and the perversities of juries had become proverbial, and public sentiment did not then coincide with the severity of the declared penalty. The law had been pronounced by men of legal eminence too defective in detail to admit of enforcement. This very culprit had, in 1860, been offered immunity from the punishment of death if he would plead guilty and accept a commutation of sentence to mere imprisonment. To bring him to justice, required ability, energy, persistency, a power of persuasion, rare courage, and perfect integrity. The result, in the execution of Nathaniel Gordon, master of the slave ship

"Erie," is at once a monument to the public services, and a key to the character, of the subject of this sketch. Its consequences to the country, at a time when foreign nations were seeking to intervene against us in our late struggle for national existence upon the ground that in our lust for dominion we were indifferent to the question of slavery, were at the time acknowledged by the press of Europe. In an oration delivered in the city of New York, February 22d, 1862, the historian George Bancroft referred to this celebrated case in the following language:—"The centuries clasp hands and repeat it one to another! Yesterday the sentiment of Jefferson, that the slave trade is a piratical warfare upon mankind, was reaffirmed by carrying into effect the sentence of a high tribunal of justice; and to save the lives and protect the happiness of thousands, a slave trader was executed as a pirate and an enemy of the human race."

From a genealogical pamphlet prepared by a relative of Mr. Smith, we learn that his father was Doctor Archelaus G. Smith, long an eminent physician and surgeon in Western New York, who with meagre advantages rose from a farmer's boy to a man of scientific acquirements,—assiduous, upright, and benevolent. In perfecting himself in his profession, he attended in the city of New York the medical lectures of Doctor Edward Delafield, and named his son after that distinguished man.

E. Delafield Smith was born at Rochester, New York, May 8th, 1826. The family removed to the city of New York when he was ten years of age. "He is a New York boy," used to say old Alderman James Kelly, formerly of the Fourth Ward, and more recently Postmaster of the city, "for I have seen him roll hoop on the Battery and play marbles in the City Hall Park."

In the earliest years of the settlement of this country, the grandfather of Dr. Smith emigrated from England to Connecticut, being one of two brothers, the other of whom settled in Virginia. Both were planters. The names of his maternal ancestors were Preston and Bundy. The latter name was derived from the forest of

Bondy, near Paris, the Bundys being among the adventurers who accompanied William the Conqueror to England, subsequently turning farmers and settling in Kent. The American progenitor came over with Governor Winthrop in 1630. The immediate ancestors of Doctor Smith fought in the American revolution, and he was himself a surgeon in the war of 1812. On the maternal side, Mr. Smith is a descendant of the Boughtons, an English family, originally from Wales. His mother's maternal ancestor was a Penoyer, a family which left France for England in the time of Louis fourteenth, at the revocation of the edict of Nantes. To Robert Penoyer, Harvard University owed one of its early endowments; and a scholarship in that college still belongs to the descendants. Jared Boughton, Mr. Smith's maternal grandfather, a man of integrity, intelligence, and enterprise, emigrated from Old Stockbridge, Massachusetts, to the country of the Genesee, in Western New York. He was one of the pioneers of civilization in that region. His wife was the first white woman, and his eldest daughter—the mother of Delafield Smith, a woman of superior intelligence—the first white child ever in Victor, in the county of Ontario, where “Boughton Hill” was one of the oldest settlements. This was in 1790. Deer were then plenty, and bears and wolves were then often seen, in a wilderness which now wears no trace of savage life. A journey from Massachusetts to Western New York was at that period accomplished in winter by sleighs, and in summer on horseback, men and women being borne over the streams upon the ice in January, and upon the saddle in July.

During his childhood, Delafield was half the year upon the farm of his maternal grandfather, where he imbibed a love of rural scenes, of horses, and of stock which has never deserted him; and for the remainder of the year a student in one of the severest of seminaries, located at Rochester, where he acquired a hatred of the exactions of a school which ever afterward confirmed his characteristic impatience of arbitrary restraints. But he was a good

reader, and his infant declamation, in a church of that place, at the age of eight, at a school exhibition, was long remembered.

In New York, the old Quaker school of Solyman Brown, in Broadway, below Broome Street, the grammar school of the University, Coudert's French Academy at Wheatsheaf, New Jersey, and a New England seminary at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, were his haunts up to the commencement of his college course.

Entering the New York University, under Theodore Frelinghuysen, Tayler Lewis, Draper, Loomis, Johnson, Henry, and other eminent professors, he was the poet of his class, and by the common testimonials of both teachers and students, its best writer and speaker. He has since returned to this institution as a professor in its faculty of law.

Graduating at the age of twenty, he pursued his legal studies, first with an elder brother, and subsequently in the offices of R. M. & E. H. Blatchford, Judge William Kent, and Judge Henry E. Davies. In 1848, he was admitted to the bar, and in January 1849, commenced alone the practice of his profession. In 1851 he formed a partnership with Mr. Smith Clift; and subsequently with Mr. Isaac P. Martin and Mr. Augustus F. Smith—the latter being his brother and a man of professional distinction. Perhaps no legal business in the city of New York has been more lucrative than that in which he participated for many years in the partnership last mentioned.

Four large volumes of selected judicial decisions were published by him from 1854 to 1859. These are widely known to the legal profession of the country, and are often cited, under the name of E. D. Smith's Reports.

With a solid reputation as a mercantile lawyer, pecuniarily independent, and deeply interested in public affairs, he accepted, in April, 1861, the position of law officer of the United States in New York, and at the close of a term of four years resumed the ordinary practice of his profession.

With the exception of the United States District Attorneyship,



and also excepting the use of Mr. Smith's name, in 1859, in connection with the position of counsel to the corporation at New York, he has never accepted office nor permitted his friends to seek it for him. On one occasion, in 1869, the Republican Party of the metropolis, in a canvass confessedly hopeless, bestowed their full suffrages upon him for District Attorney of the State, and many not of his political affinities added their votes. But it has been his practice to decline both executive appointments and party nominations, frequently given or tendered, for county, legislative, judicial, and congressional positions.

An account of the public services of Mr. Delafield Smith during the four years of his official term as District Attorney and Counsel of the United States at New York, would involve the writing of a judicial history of the nation during the most momentous period of its existence. It is simply true and just to say, that his successes before Courts and juries in vindicating the laws of the land were unprecedented. In a four years' term, for example, he procured six capital convictions—six verdicts involving the death penalty—against a number no greater obtained for thirty years immediately preceding his term, and none since. At the same time, no prosecuting officer was ever more glad to drop a prosecution the instant the least gleam of innocence appeared, or the moment any exercise of mercy seemed reconcilable with the demands of public justice. The young, the poor, and the first offender were often released, while the more powerful culprit was relentlessly pursued.

Notwithstanding the extraordinary demands of legal business growing out of the war, the civil litigations of the government and especially its revenue suits were constantly pressed, and the sums annually realized were matter of remark, at the time, for their number and magnitude.

The office is one of multifarious duties, which cannot be performed by any one individual, without well-drilled assistants. Its greatest need is an organizing, administrative, executive ability in its chief. And this, among his other qualifications,



was recognized in Mr. Smith by all who had business with the office.

The condemnations procured in the cases of the British steamers Peterhoff, Springbok, Stephen Hart, and others, dealt a blow at trade with the Southern insurgents carried on through Nassau, Matamoras, and other intermediate points, while like forfeitures were inflicted upon the owners of domestic ships and cargoes attempting to sail with similar destinations and purposes. We pass with less particular mention the earlier prize cases of the Hiawatha and others, in which Mr. Smith, contrary to his custom, employed associate counsel.

Among the celebrated cases successfully conducted, may be mentioned that of the rich capitalist Kohnstamm, where, with valuable aid, frauds upon the Government amounting in their ramifications to half a million dollars were exposed, and an example made which saved to the national treasury millions more. We may also refer to the convictions procured by Mr. Smith, of John U. Andrews, the leader of the New York rioters in July, 1863; the Parkhill murderers; the negro Hawkins, hanged for the butchery of a ship's master; the Italian man-slayer, Dimarchi; the Port Jervis and East New York counterfeiters; to cases of cruelty to seamen, and of mutinies against officers; convictions and forfeitures for frauds upon the customs and the internal revenue.

The prosecutions under the laws for the suppression of the slave trade did not stop with the execution of the Captain of the Erie. The imprisonment of the merchant Albert Horn, for fitting out slave ships; the conviction—after juries under Mr. Smith's predecessors had twice disagreed—of Rudolph Blumenburg for perjury, as a surety for the discharged slave ship Orion; the sentence of a number of mates; the condemnations of the Kate, the Weather-guage, the Nightingale, the Sarah, and the Augusta; the narrow escape from the gallows of Haines and Westervelt, by a disagreement of juries standing nine and ten to three and two for convictions—all taught the new lesson that seizures and arrests meant

unsparing prosecutions. Without enumerating other cases, it is sufficient to say that in a few months the foreign slave trade was forever extirpated from the port of New York.

To the wives of Union prisoners and the widows of deceased soldiers, Mr. Smith, throughout his term, rendered systematic and gratuitous services in procuring the payment of dues and pensions, and saving the deductions and delays of the systems of claim agency.

From the age of eighteen, Delafield Smith has been widely known as a terse, strong, and stirring public speaker.

The following extract from the commencement and the close of his published address, July 10th, 1863, in the case of the Peterhoff, is a specimen of the clear and direct style in which he addresses a legal argument to a court without a jury:

EXTRACT FROM ARGUMENT TO THE COURT IN THE CASE OF THE  
PETERHOFF.

*“May it please the Court:—*This case is clothed with profound interest in the public mind, both of Europe and America. It is brought to the bar of a court, commissioned by the government of a great country, and charged with the determination and application of international law. Not solely individuals, but nations, are parties to this controversy. Not alone an august judicial tribunal at Washington, but the imperial courts of a distant continent will sit in review of the judgment which shall be pronounced here. Yet the testimony spread upon this record is within a narrow scope. The facts marshaled before us are few. A decision may be reached without straining the eye in search of precedents, beyond such familiar adjudications as have long ago sunk to the level margin of an elementary treatise. It is true, indeed, that consequences of magnitude have become entangled in the issue. But for them, the world might well wonder that so simple a case should have so aroused the populace of one country, and so interested the publicists of many.

“Was the recent enterprise of the Peterhoff honest or fraudulent? Was her voyage lawful or illegal? Was her destination real or simulated?

“In deciding the issue involved in this capture, two classes of facts demand attention. First, such as are of a public character, too general to require specific proof, and sufficiently notorious to come, of their own force, within the range of unaided judicial cognizance. And, secondly, those established by the testimony taken *in preparatorio*, consisting of the responses of witnesses to the standing interrogatories administered by the prize commissioners, together with such light as an inspection of the ship's papers and of her cargo may throw upon the intent of those by whom her course has been directed.

“In the summer of 1861 the foundations of this land trembled with an earthquake of territorial war. The country was aroused as from a sleep. Guards, of her own appointment, still lingering in her high places, were prepared to trample out her life if she lay still, and to assassinate her if she arose. Perjured treachery and audacious force vied with each other to destroy a government, which discovered its worst enemies amongst the most pampered and caressed of the children of her protection. The war was not for a boundary, a province, or a form of government. Its purpose, sorrowfully seen at home, was to annihilate the unity and life of the nation. Its consequences, greedily predicted abroad, were to open the best portion of the western hemisphere to insolent foreign footsteps, which periodically humiliate the States of Mexico and South America. It was a rising, not to overthrow tyranny, but to establish it. Guilty leaders and deluded communities affected to reproduce the drama of the American revolution, making oppression perform now the part that liberty enacted then.

“Words and acts of attempted conciliation were wasted. Awakened to its own defence, the government is forced at length to the arbitrament of war. The Executive establishes a blockade of the insurrectionary ports. The Emperor of the French, dreaming of

his personal aggrandizement, and hating the principles of republican government, weaves wily arts for our embarrassment; and Britain, without his excuses, green with jealousies which our ovations to her prince should have cleansed away, whets with the stone of national animosity the cupidity of her tradesmen. Government and people, emulating each the bad faith of the other, hasten to confer rights upon one belligerent and to heap wrongs upon the other. Ships, clad in iron, start from her docks to prey upon the merchant marine of a friendly power, while vessels crowd the harbor of New York flying the red signals of England, to the exclusion of the flag which was once the protection of American commerce. In defiance of the public law of the world, English bottoms infest our southern seas, violate the belligerent right of blockade, and bear food, medicines and arms to the enemies of human freedom and of stable government.

“Such was the situation of public affairs, when the naval forces and the federal courts of the United States, the one with untiring energy, the other with intelligent firmness, surrounded with increasing hazards the bold breaches of blockade and the wholesale indulgences in contraband trade, with which this unnatural conflict was fostered and prolonged.

“Then cunning greed invoked frauds and subterfuges, to do by indirection what had proved at length too dangerous and impracticable for the open arts of enterprise. The little harbor of Nassau, in the island of New Providence; the port of Cardenas, on the northerly coast of Cuba, and, at last, the unfrequented region of Matamoras, in Mexico, are magnified into vast marts of trade, and become the rivals of Liverpool, Havre and New York. Ships of ponderous tonnage traverse the seas and swarm in the vicinity of these inconsiderable places. Owners, shippers and masters, with remarkable effrontery, claim that they are centres of substantial, legitimate and independent trade. At the same time, the common sense and common knowledge of the world acknowledge that they are mere stopping places and ports of transhipment, by or



through which munitions of war and articles of necessity, of comfort and of luxury, may be carried from the British Isles to the insurgent section of the American Union. So the British bark "Springbok" sets her chaste sails for Nassau. So the British schooner "Stephen Hart" turns an honest face toward Cardenas. And thus, we say, the steamer "Peterhoff" pursues her virtuous pathway to Matamoras. But the rough sailor follows in the track of each. He sees through the thin disguises. He thrusts aside the flimsy veil. He arrests the pretender and sends her where she must submit to the scrutiny of a court of justice.

"In the light, then, of the notorious fraud, the simulation, the circuitry, the indirection, with which this contraband trade to the Southern ports has been projected and persisted in, we approach the proofs in the case now under consideration. No intelligent examination of the testimony now before us can be attempted without a recognition of the public facts to which I have adverted.

"Sailing under such circumstances, it must be conceded that the Peterhoff, if guilty, would shroud her purpose in the depths of dissimulation; and, if innocent, would fail in no mark of frankness. We shall observe, in the course of our inquiry, how much she has displayed of the one, and how little of the other."

Want of space compels us to omit the body of the argument. The following are the closing sentences:

"A vigorous administration of the public law both of blockade and of contraband of war, has been maintained by Great Britain in aid of her own wars, as well those that were unjust as those that were just. It is the right of nations. The American government will not surrender it—never, certainly, in a conflict for its existence. It is vital to an early and thorough suppression of the war of insurrection which has desolated so large a portion of its territory.

"Rebellion, indeed, exhibits 'waning proportions,' but it can-



not be speedily subdued and extirpated unless want and privation exhaust, while armies overthrow. We march upon an extended country, sparsely populated, without any one geographical or commercial key to its military or political power. It has no Gibraltar, no Sebastopol, no Paris, no London, and no New York. The end, indeed, is certain. The national authority will be established, vindicated, enlarged. But that consummation will be near or far, as the law of nations, violated without home rebuke by British tradesmen, shall be sustained and executed by judicial tribunals.

“The speedy establishment of freedom and order upon this continent, and the consequent termination of a bloody war, is the aspiration of patriotism here, and of humanity the world over. The achievement of a good so substantial and so general, may be promoted or retarded by the lessons which cases like this shall teach as well to the merchants and statesmen of Europe, as to the power which maintains, and the people who suffer from the Great Rebellion.”

Before a jury, Mr. Smith is earnest and impressive. On the trial of one of the mates of the slave ship *Nightingale*, before Justices Nelson and Shipman, the defence was represented by Charles O'Connor, James T. Brady, and John McKeon, who had brought out in the testimony the fact that the defendant was the son of a wealthy gentleman of Staten Island and a grandson of a former Vice-President of the United States.

Mr. Smith said :

“Against crime clearly proved, respectability is not a valid plea. As regards the prisoner, his surroundings certainly furnish no excuse for this felonious enterprise. As respects his example, they add tenfold to the public mischief of his acts. It is not easy to keep a common sailor from a slave bark, when such as he lead the way. You can hardly blame poor Jack for thrusting slaves into the loathsome hold, while gentlemen mates, as proved in the evidence here, keep tally on the deck ! Dissatisfied with the paternal

home on the slopes of Staten Island, he aspires, perhaps, to build for his own pleasure, in the metropolis itself, a mansion with the gains of adventures which involve the transportation of human beings from their homes in Africa to the strange coast of Cuba, in stifling pens, beneath tropic suns, with the actual calculation, founded upon terrible experience, that if two thirds die and one third land, the venture is a fair success! Might it not have occurred to him, that a fortune so constructed would trouble his future dreams with insufferable remorse? Ought it not to have been plain to his intelligence, that the carved columns, the expanded arches, the dizzy domes of a palace so erected, would, in a future guilty imagination, rest, for their caryatides, upon the shoulders of slave men, the breasts of slave women, and the bodies of slave children? Oh God! How many costly stone structures raise their ornamented fronts impudently to heaven, while their foundations are laid—literally laid—in hell.”

Upon returning to general practice, Mr. Smith achieved professional successes *against* the government almost as important as those which he had officially gained in its favor. For instance, in the mercantile case of Bankard and Hutton against Schell, late collector of the customs, to recover duties paid under protest, he obtained from judge and jury, in the United States courts, the reversal of a class of statute-constructions immediately involving several millions of dollars. The treasury department, erroneously believing that Mr. Smith's experience in revenue law had taken the then district attorney at a disadvantage, demanded a new trial, and sent an officer from Washington to aid in the defence. The result of the second adjudication was the establishment of principles which required a still larger refund of illegally exacted duties. The case is now an established precedent, and its just determination is matter of felicitation among the importing merchants of the country. The following is extracted from a stenographic report of the first trial:

EXORDIUM OF CLOSING ADDRESS TO THE JURY, BEFORE JUDGE SMALLEY,  
IN THE CASE OF BENKARD AND HUTTON AGAINST SCHELL,  
COLLECTOR OF THE CUSTOMS.

*"May it please the Court, and you, Gentlemen of the Jury:—*The dark day of battle and rebellion is ended. The laws, long silent, again lift up their voices. The national tribunals of justice, wearied with long contests between neutral and belligerent, once more give access to the citizen as well as to the government. Neither may now assume to be above the law.

*"With the serene reign of order and tranquillity at length restored, may we not pause for a moment to pay a passing tribute to those in the council and the field, to whom that restoration is due. And in this, shall we not remember that in the darkest days of all, when the national credit was almost exhausted and the national treasury well nigh collapsed, the one was restored and the other replenished by the generous action of the merchants of New York.*

*"Shall it be said that the gratitude of the government to them finds its sole expression in a rude denial of legal rights on the one hand, and in vexatious prosecutions for penalties and forfeitures, sustained by unfounded imputations of fraud, on the other?*

*"Shall it not rather be said, that having in vain petitioned for justice at governmental departments, they at last have sought and found it in the courts of their country? And when that justice shall have been administered, may they not proudly remember that it was awarded by a judge who found in the circle of his judicial action ways effectually to aid his country in her life and death struggle, and at the same time inexorably to guard against infraction every provision of the law and every line of the Constitution, even in the midst of the din of arms."*

From the published speeches of Mr. Smith, we insert in full the following brief specimen of a popular appeal:

ADDRESS AT UNION SQUARE, AT THE WAR MEETING, CALLED BY THE  
COMMITTEES OF THE NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE  
COMMON COUNCIL, THE UNION DEFENCE COMMITTEE, AND  
OTHER BODIES, IN RESPONSE TO AN APPEAL OF THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR  
ADDITIONAL MILITARY FORCES.

[Extracted from a printed report of the proceedings, prepared  
under the supervision of the Secretary of the Chamber of  
Commerce.]

“Mr. Smith, being introduced by General Fremont, who presided at the stand near the Spingler Institute, was received with great enthusiasm, and spoke as follows :

“*Men of New York* :—This is, in truth, a colossal demonstration. The eye can hardly reach the boundaries of these compact thousands. It would be vain for the voice to attempt it. The people have come in their might. They have come in their majesty. They have ‘come as the winds come when forests are rended.’ They have ‘come as the waves come when navies are stranded.’ We are here to-day, not to speak and acclaim, but to act and incite to action. [Applause.] We know that this monster rebellion cannot be spoken down ; it must be fought down. [Cheers.]

“We are assembled to animate each other to renewed efforts and nobler sacrifices, in behalf of our imperilled country. There is hardly one of us who has not, at this hour, some endeared relative on the bloody fields of Virginia. The voices of our armed and suffering brethren literally cry to us from the ground. To-day we hear them. To-day let us heed them. [Applause.] The call for fresh troops comes to us from a loved and trusted President—from faithful and heroic generals. [Loud cheers.] This day determines that it shall be answered. [Renewed cheers.] Let each act as though specially commissioned to obtain recruits for a sacred service. [Applause.]

“Fremont is here. You have heard his voice. He has told us



to uphold our government and sustain our generals in the field. Whatever officer may go to battle with the President's commission, will be made strong by a loyal people's prayers and confidence. [Loud cheering.]

"The Army and Navy, the President, the Cabinet and the Congress, have done all that can now be effected by them. The issue to-day is with the people. Do you ask activity on the part of the President? Recall his personal labor and supervision in the council and the field. Do you seek a policy? Look to his solemn conference with the loyalists of the border States. [Cheers.] Do you demand legislation? Witness the matured laws that Congress has spread upon the statute-book. A jurist, from the bench of our highest tribunal, once declared a maxim which shocked the country and the world. It is ours, with our representatives, to respond: *A rebel has no rights which a white man is bound to respect.* [Loud and long continued cheering, with waving of hats and handkerchiefs.]

"A traitor cannot own a loyalist of any race. Nor can 'service be due' to national conspirators, except at the call of public justice. [Laughter and applause.]

"The limits of civilized warfare must and will be observed; but those limits are broad as the boundaries of the ocean, and they lie far beyond the lives and the treasure of traitors in arms. [Cheers.] In this mortal combat between the enemies and the friends of republican liberty, wherein treason scruples at nothing, patriots must neglect no means that God and nature have placed in their hands. [Loud cheers.]

"These institutions were reared on the ruins of British pride. Their foundations must be reconstructed on the crumbled pretensions of southern oligarchs. [Renewed cheers.] We must, and we will, repel force by force. They who press an iron heel upon the heart of our noble nation, must perish by the sword of her avenging sons. God grant the time may be near, when every rebel leader may say his prayers, and bite the dust, or hang as high as Haman.



If we are wise, and true, and brave, the American Union, like the sun in the heavens, shall be clouded but for a night. Still shall it move onward, and every obstacle in its pathway be withered and crushed. [Renewed and continued cheering.]

“Victory, indeed, cannot be won, except by arms. Our institutions were the gift of the wounded and dead of the armies of Washington. Shakespeare said, and we re-utter in a higher sense,

‘Things bought with blood must be by blood maintained.’

“Look to our armies, and rally the people to swell their wasted ranks. Go, you who can. And spare neither labor nor money to enable others to march to battle. [Cheers.]

“Let loyal men permit no question to distract or divide them. Care not what a man’s theories may be, so that his heart feels and his hand works for the Union. Every citizen, North or South, who prays for the success of our arms, and who labors for the vindication of our Constitution, whatever may be his politics or opinions, is a patriot. [Cheers.] They who condemn any class of our fellow-citizens, because of differences on collateral issues—those who declare that a loyal abolitionist is on a level with an armed secessionist—are wrong in head, or at heart unsound. [Applause.]

“Let assertions like this be at an end. Let all loyal men, and all loyal journals, abandon arguments which bear the dull and counterfeit ring of traitor philosophy. [Loud applause.]

“For the rest—for those who not alone *seem*, but *are*, disloyal—let the people arise in their might, and silence them all, whether they speak in the street to the few, or seek, through the public press, to poison the many. Law, in many things, cannot go so far, nor accomplish so much, as determined public opinion. [Cheers.] While men in North Carolina and Tennessee, with manly courage, strike in their districts, at the hydra of rebellion, shall not we, in New York, war upon the spirit of secession in every form? [Applause, and cries of ‘We will.’] The old flag must be the para-

mount object of all. It will be loved by the faithful. By the false, it must be feared. [Vociferous cheering.]

"They talk of a distinction between fidelity to the government and devotion to the administration. In the day of national danger or disaster, the two sentiments are inseparable. Distrust him who professes the one only to disclaim the other. [Applause.] When the tempest howls, no prayer breathed for the ship, forgets the pilot at her helm. [Applause and cheers.]

"Loyalty knows no conditions. Stand by the government! Scrutinize its action; but do it like earnest patriots—not like covert traitors. Stand by the administration! In times like these, party spirit should be lulled. That spirit was hushed in the era of the Revolution—in the days of Madison and Monroë—and when the hero of New Orleans crushed the rising form of Nullification. Our fathers stood by Jackson as their sires sustained Washington. It is our privilege to uphold the arm of a President, great and pure, who will share their glory on the page of history. [Loud cheering.]

"I must trespass no longer. [Cries of 'go on, go on.'] No, fellow-citizens; I will bid you farewell. Our illustrious Secretary of State has this day given to the army the only son not already in the public Service. Let us emulate his spirit of sacrifice, and think nothing too dear to offer on the altar of our country.

"Mr. Smith spoke with a clear, loud voice, and retired in the midst of most enthusiastic cheering."

The following tribute to the memory of the gifted and lamented James T. Brady, was delivered at a meeting of the bar in New York, in February, 1869, and we find it published with the proceedings:

SPEECH OF E. DELAFIELD SMITH ON THE DEATH OF JAMES T. BRADY.

"Mr. E. Delafield Smith said:—*Mr. President*:—I know well that occasions like this are best adorned by those who bring to

them the dignity of years, the lustre of learning, the glory of renown. And I rejoice that while the scythe of death has been busy in our midst, peers of our illustrious friend still remain to honor his obsequies. Yet it must be acknowledged that James T. Brady possessed characteristics, extraordinary in degree if not in kind, calculated to inspire and to justify, in younger and humbler members of his profession, a desire to press forward and stand among the foremost at his bier.

“Juniors and even juvenals at the Bar; aspirants upon the very threshold of manhood; youths still lingering in academies and schools; and little children, tender as those our Saviour caressed, were as dear to his presence as the most accomplished of the crowned intellectual princes with whom it was his pride to cope in the forum, and his delight to mingle in social festivities.

“To all who approached him in his life, rang out the welcome of his cheerful voice. By its dying echoes, all alike are summoned to his tomb. The greatest who kneel there must make room for the least. If, at the home so lately his, where we looked upon his face for the last time; if, from the coffin, which was buried in flowers before the cold earth had leave to press it, his eyes could have opened and calmly viewed the scene—no floral harp, no cross nor crown, however beautiful or elaborate, would have won a sweeter smile than the simplest wreath that struggled for its place in the general profusion.

“His kindness and courtesy were universally bestowed; and in view of this, it is remarkable that they were so singularly acceptable and flattering to every individual who came within their reach. But they were a matter of heart, not of manner—too respectful to offend, too genuine to be resisted. As the generous light of the sun may illumine half the world, yet the rays that fall on us seem peculiarly our own; so the genial glow of his kindness cheered us all, and yet each felt himself the special recipient of his favor.

“There were times, however, when his generosity became marked and demonstrative. It was interesting to observe with

what judgment and taste it even then was guarded and directed. In the celebrated trial of the 'Savannah Privateers'—to which a preceding speaker referred with great kindness to both the living and the dead—where we felt the blows which he delighted to deal upon a prosecution, he was associated with some eminent advocates and also with some unknown to professional fame or experience. In his matchless address to the jury, he repeated, with careful credit, some of the arguments which these humbler allies had used, and paid them a tribute of praise not less just in conception than delicate in expression. Of four leading counsel there arrayed—Lord, Evarts, Brady, Larocque—three have gone to their long home.

"In the prominent cases of Horne and of Haynes, arising under the laws for the suppression of the slave trade, and in the great fraud case of Kohnstamm, it will not be easy to forget either the ability of his defenses, or his subsequent assurance of sympathy in the anxious labors which those prosecutions involved.

"He never entered a court-room but smiles from Bench and Bar responded to his presence. He never appeared upon a platform but to be greeted by thronging auditors. No banquet saw diminished guests while he remained to speak.

'From the charmed council to the festive board,  
Of human feelings the unbounded lord.'

"A lawyer, an orator, a scholar, a gentleman—all that these made him was given to his country in her day of danger, and to the land of his ancestors in every hopeful struggle.

"Great in intellect, great in heart—

'See, what a grace was seated on this brow ;  
Hyperion's curls ; the front of Jove himself.'

"Our hearts may well be touched as they rarely have been. Words, unless of fire—tears, unless of blood—should only mock their grief.



'Ye orators, whom yet our councils yield,  
 Mourn for the veteran hero of your field!  
 Ye men of wit and social eloquence,  
 He was your brother—bear his ashes hence!  
 While powers of mind almost of boundless range,  
 Complete in kind, as various in their change,  
 While eloquence, wit, poesy, and mirth,  
 That humbler harmonist of care on earth,  
 Survive within our souls—while lives our sense  
 Of pride in merit's proud preeminence,  
 Long shall we seek his likeness—long in vain.'

"When 'a mighty spirit is eclipsed'—when death comes to the noble and brave, we cannot but be glad it is the common lot. We would not shrink forever from the dark path which they are forced to tread. We would not fail to seek them at last in the better world beyond.

"Gentle, genial, generous spirit! Our hearts shall long resound with the sweet music of the solemn Cathedral, which breathed a prayer for thy peace and rest.

' — Stay not thy career;  
 I know we follow to eternity! "

The following after-dinner speech we copy from the "American Scotsman" of February, 1870, containing a report of a celebration in New York of the birth of Robert Burns:—

SPEECH ON SCOTLAND DELIVERED AT BURNS' ANNIVERSARY DINNER.

"The Hon. E. Delafield Smith, on being called on, responded to the next toast, SCOTLAND, as follows:

"As Daniel Webster said of Massachusetts, Scotland 'speaks for herself.' History and philosophy, science and learning, poetry and romance are steeds to the chariot of her fame as onward it moves from generation to generation. Like the morning it advances, growing brighter as it dawns on each succeeding age.



“It is a luxury to know that we may indulge in limitless praise of Scotland without arousing the jealousy of either of the countries in her immediate neighbourhood. For Englishmen and Irishmen will impute all her glory to the blood of their own ancestors, sown across the border centuries ago! Do we not read that Saxons conquered the Lowlands and made them their own in the year of our Lord 449? And do we not learn that a Celtic tribe from Erin settled on the west coast in A. D. 503, became the dominant race, and even gave the very name of Scots to the Picts who preceded them? (Applause.)

“If we extol her for her Presbyterianism—that sturdy church which she planted on American soil—may it not afford a malicious delight to her rivals, as well as some special satisfaction to her friends—for she is always hospitable—to know that whiskey and ale are among her principal productions? (Laughter.) If we praise her salmon, her opponents may gnaw at her herrings. If we admire her tartan, her enemies may hang on her hemp. (Renewed laughter.) If we exalt her schools, it may console her competitors to confess that the salaries of her schoolmasters depend upon the fluctuating price of oatmeal. [Continued laughter.] If she is the land of books, we must acknowledge her alike the ‘land o’ cakes.’ If she produces a brilliant literature, it is kind to her neighbors to drench it with cold ‘reviews,’ so that its fame shall not glow too brightly in the admiration of the world. If she launches great steamers you may still taunt her on her canal-boats. If she glories in her steam-engines, she yet furnishes the navies of the world with sails, but leaves them, it must be confessed, the ‘airs’ that swell them.

“And here, to be serious, I cannot refrain from alluding to the personal manners of Scotchmen, by which they are sometimes prejudiced in the minds of those who fail to realize the value of sincerity in human intercourse. They have not the formal politeness of the English, the cordiality of the Irish, nor the suavity of the French. But a Scotch smile is a reality. It intensely means

all it indicates. *Esse quam videri*. You remember the story of the Frenchman who discovered a neighbor in his carriage, and told him to get out. 'Sir,' said the intruder, 'you asked me to get in.' 'Ah,' was the mild response, 'you were welcome to the compliment, but I want the carriage myself.' A true Scotchman would grudge the politeness, but give you the drive. [Laughter and applause.]

"No man can do justice to this steadfast, heroic, beautiful, wild and classic land, without recalling the valor of her historic battle-fields—without recounting her array of names inscribed at every goal of human achievement—nor without rising to a sublime description of her lakes and rivers, her heaths and highlands, her cataracts and torrents. [Cheers.]

"But here we approach the domain, not of eloquence, but of poetry; and upon him that may not without presumption invoke either muse, silence is doubly imposed. [Go on.]

"Yes, I would not sit down without pointing to one immortal name on Scotland's roll of honor, to illustrate that grandest feature of Scottish character, intrepid integrity. I allude not now to the glorious humanity of Burns. I refer to his great successor, Walter Scott. [Applause.] My theme is not to-night the charm of his song, nor the witchery of his romance. I would recall your memory to that chapter in his biography which relates that when his fame was at its height and his fortune supposed to have been made, the failures of certain publication-houses carried with them his pecuniary destruction. As endorser upon their paper, he was overwhelmed with debts amounting to seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Brave as Alexander, he faced his calamities without complaint, and at the age of fifty-five went to work to retrieve them. At his death five hundred thousand dollars had been paid, and the remainder was in the way of speedy discharge. Refusing all composition or settlement, he laid down life on the altar of his Scotch honesty. Born in the year and on the day that gave the first Napoleon birth, his courage was of a type that warriors might envy. [Cheers.]

“The magnanimity of Walter Scott toward his literary rivals illustrates another manly trait of Scottish character. The greatest of his poetical competitors was the illustrious Byron. Acknowledging that Byron ‘bate’ him, he yet forgot an early thrust received in the satire, and became as kind to his brother poet through his life as he proved tender and just to his mangled memory. [Loud cheering.] And the genius of that brilliant bard must itself be largely credited to Scotland. For he himself says:

‘—I am half a Scot by birth, and bred  
A whole one, and my heart flies to my head,—

As ‘Auld Lang Syne’ brings Scotland, one and all,  
Scotch plaids, Scotch snoods, the blue hills and clear streams,  
The Dee, the Don, Balgounie’s brig’s black wall,  
All my boy feelings, all my gentler dreams  
Of what I then dreamt, clothed in their own pall,  
Like Banquo’s offspring. Floating past me seems  
My childhood in this childishness of mine—  
I care not—’tis a glimpse of ‘Auld Lang Syne.’

And though, as you remember, in a fit  
Of wrath and rhyme, when juvenile and curly,  
I rail’d at Scots to show my wrath and wit,  
Which must be owned was sensitive and surly,  
Yet ’tis in vain such sallies to permit,  
They cannot quench young feelings fresh and early;  
I ‘scotch’d not killed’ the Scotchman in my blood,  
And love the land of ‘mountain and of flood.’

[Cheering and Applause.”]

While Delafield Smith is a sound and laborious lawyer, he is by no means a *mere* lawyer. When, in the heat of our late national struggle, the war department determined upon a seizure of all the recorded telegraphic dispatches, he was selected to arrange a simultaneous descent upon the telegraphic offices in the city of New York. And the task was performed with such proficiency as to receive the commendation of the government, and at the

same time with such delicacy as to induce the thanks of the companies for his avoidance of all public exposure of private business and social communications. Again. When a public mail, made up at Liverpool, was found on the Peterhoff, and a special attorney of the Navy Department clamored for its violation and exposure in court, Mr. Smith, sinking the lawyer in the statesman, ordered the seals to remain unbroken. The State Department and also even the President himself returned to him their special acknowledgments for his sagacity in saving the country from a most awkward complication, which would have been likely to result in a war with England at a time when the rebellion was too formidable to render other entanglements at all safe. And again. When ships, bound for blockaded ports, were brought for adjudication, the ordinary process of obtaining, for the urgent use of the government, arms found on board, was slow and tedious; but the task was habitually accomplished by Mr. Smith with such promptitude, as to wring from Secretary Stanton the "wish that the energy of the District Attorney at New York could be imparted to every agent of the War Department."

Mr. Smith has accumulated a large library of standard works in almost every department of science, learning, and literature. He delights in original editions, in unique illustrations, and in works of permanent value, not always so popular as to escape becoming "out of print."

He is a man of culture, of scholastic tastes, of literary discernment and capacity,—just and generous in his dealings, true and honorable under all circumstances, bountiful but discriminating in his benevolences, devoted to his home, of genuine wit and genial humor—though with an apparent under-current of sadness. A warm partizan, he has yet no acerbities. It is often remarked that his personal friends are quite as numerous among political opponents as in the ranks of his own party.

Perhaps no man ever carried the obligation of gratitude for political, professional, or personal favor, further than he; while at



the same time no personal disappointment seems to lessen his friendship for a public man whom he has thoroughly admired, nor his zeal for a cause which he has heartily espoused.

That the reader may form a judgment of his own of Mr. Smith's ability, we have given specimens of his oratory. Our limits do not permit additional selections from his literary and poetical writings. These, like his speeches, are both stamped with a certain intensity and force ; and in a notice of one of his early poems, Mr. Bryant remarked—"the versification is uncommonly easy and flowing, and among the thick-coming fancies of the writer, are many of great beauty and brilliancy."

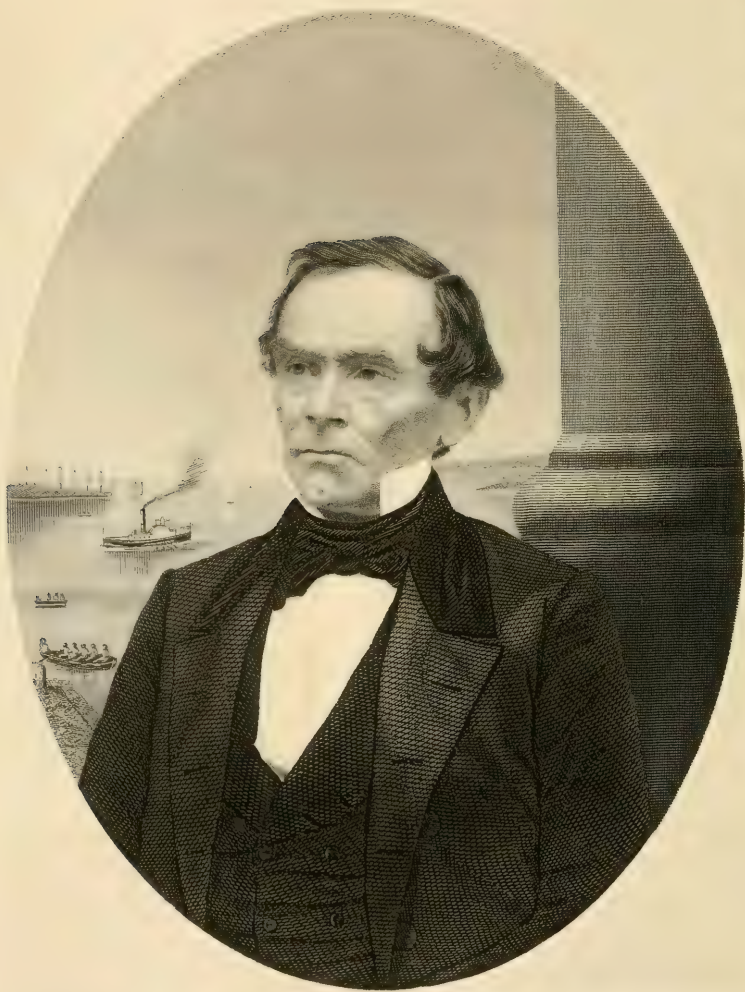
Mr. Smith resides in New York ; but enjoys, for more than merely the summer months, his country home and farm at Shrewsbury, near Long Branch, New Jersey.

Early in life, he married a daughter of Rev. Doctor Gilbert Morgan, a scholarly gentleman, of Bradford Springs, Sumter, South Carolina. Of their seven children five are living. At Greenwood the graves of two, early deceased, bear the following inscription, penned by Mr. Smith :—

With chastened pride  
We give them back to God to keep,  
Too grateful for their lives to weep  
That they have died.







JOHN W. FOSTER, Esq., U.S. Senator from New York. Engraved by J. H. Smith, from a portrait by J. H. Smith.



## DANIEL DREW, ESQ.

BY REV. J. MCCLINTOCK, D. D.



IN a certain sense it is true that, in this age, "Commerce is King." The lives of "successful merchants" are found to be subjects of story as attractive to the men of this generation as those of monarchs or heroes. And why not? There is no reason why the power of genius and industry should not be recognized in the great achievements of commerce, as well as in the masterpieces of the pencil or the chisel, in the creations of the poet, the discoveries of the philosopher, or the triumphs of the sword. The keen sagacity, the comprehensive judgment, the ready memory, and perhaps, more than all, the prompt and bold decision needed in grand commercial enterprises and combinations, are some of the most powerful attributes of the human mind. And when we find men combining these great qualities with personal integrity and an earnest Christian life, it is fitting, not merely that they should receive due honor, but that their example should be held up for the imitation of the young.

Mr. Drew's height is about five feet ten inches; his form is slender, but lithe; his head is well shaped, with predominance in the reflective and observing organs; his eye is clear and keen; his features strongly marked; his general expression mild, but firm. He was born, July 29, 1797, at Carmel, Putnam County, New York. His early years were spent on the farm, and his education included habits of industry and frugality, with the rudiments of knowledge gathered at the winter country school. In 1812 his father died, leaving little or no property, and at eighteen the lad began business on his own account. Five years he spent in driving cattle

from Putnam County to the city for sale, and at the end of that time he had laid up no money. But he had gained what was better than money, a thorough knowledge of the trade, and he made use of this knowledge in after years with great success. He had been converted and united with the Methodist Church in 1811; but amid the temptations and perils of the business in which he had embarked he lost his religious life about 1814. But the godly training of his pious mother, and the early operations of the Holy Spirit on his heart were never entirely forgotten; and he was enabled to avoid the chief vices of men in the cattle trade, such as intemperance and profanity. In 1823 he married, and the home influences now brought about him aided in keeping him from evil habits and associations. A striking incident that occurred not long before his marriage made a deep and permanent impression upon his mind. He had driven out, with a companion, from New York to Manhattanville, in a gig. Fastening the horse under a white-wood tree, they walked out into a field to examine some cattle. A storm came up suddenly, and they returned to the gig for shelter. Hardly were they seated, when Mr. Drew and his companion were stunned by lightning. When they revived, the horse lay dead before them, in his harness. It was a marvelous escape, and Mr. Drew has never forgotten it.

In 1829 Mr. Drew removed to the city of New York, where he continued the cattle trade for some ten years longer. Part of that time he kept the old "Bull's Head," in the Bowery, a famous resort of butchers and drovers, and, in fact, a sort of cattle-dealers' exchange. His first ventures lay in near trade with adjacent counties in New York, but he and his partners gradually extended their field, first into Pennsylvania, afterward into the great West. They brought the first large drove of cattle that ever crossed the Alleghanies—two thousand head—in droves of one hundred each. The statistics of this trade, if we had space for them, would be full of curious interest. The cattle were purchased in the valleys of Ohio and Kentucky, paid for in cash, collected in droves, and then brought

over by careful hands. The transit required nearly two months, and cost \$12 per head, with allowance also of \$12 for beef "driven off" in the journey. Now, cattle are brought even from Illinois in five or six days. The business of the old-time drover is extinct. The cars and steamboats bring thousands of four-footed passengers a day into the great metropolis.

Mr. Drew's introduction to the steamboat business was apparently accidental. In 1834 Jacob Vanderbilt's steamer, *General Jackson*, running to Peekskill, blew up at Grassy Point, and a number of persons were killed and wounded. A new steamer, the *Waterwitch*, was put on the route by a friend of Mr. Drew's, Mr. H. Bailey, who induced him to take a share of \$1,000 in the enterprise. Commodore Vanderbilt—brother of Jacob—then, as now, a great steamboat man, built the *Cinderella* for his brother, and put her on the line against the *Waterwitch*. The opposition ran high; the fare was reduced to a shilling; public opinion was with the *Waterwitch*, and she carried some six hundred passengers a day to twenty or thirty on the *Cinderella*. The *Waterwitch* got great glory, and was welcomed daily with huzzas and uproar from thronging crowds at the landings; nevertheless, at the end of the season, she was in debt some \$10,000. Mr. Bailey was sick of the enterprise, and sold the steamer to Drew, Kelly & Raymond, for \$20,000. A compromise was made with Mr. Vanderbilt, and the *Waterwitch* was run as a day-boat to Hartford. Her speed was a wonder for those times—she left New York at 7 A. M., and reached Hartford by sunset. In 1836 she was exchanged by her owners for the *Westchester*, which was pitted for the season, on the North River, against the "Hudson River line," then consisting of boats supposed to be the finest that ever could be built—the *De Witt Clinton*, *North America*, *Ohio*, and others, which monopolized the traffic at a fare of \$3 to Albany. Our older readers on the Hudson—and we have many of them—will remember the exciting contest of that year. The public support to the "opposition" was excellent; another boat was needed. None could be had in New York. Vanderbilt's ad-

vice was sought. "The *Emerald*," said he, "is running from Philadelphia to Wilmington—you can buy her." The advice was taken without a day's delay; the *Emerald* was bought for \$26,000; and before the first of August she and the *Westchester* were running as night-boats on the Hudson, crowded with passengers at \$1 fare. During the year the firm of Drew & Co. built the *Rochester*, at a cost of \$56,000, and the Hudson line the *Swallow*, both admirable models. But instead of competition, there was compromise; the old fare was restored, and the profits were shared, to a fixed extent, between the two lines. To follow this extending business year by year would be full of interest, doubtless; but it would require a volume. We must leap over a few years. Mr. Isaac Newton, who was largely engaged in freighting by tow-boats, had built in 1838 two fine steamers, the *North America* and *South America*. In 1840 the boats and apparatus of Drew & Co. and of Mr. Newton were brought together, and a joint stock company was formed, which purchased the entire property, and assumed the business. There were four or five stockholders, but Mr. Drew held by far the largest share. The new "People's line" was re-enforced, on the breaking up of the Hudson River line, by the *De Witt Clinton*, her owner being admitted as a shareholder. For several years the line held almost undisputed possession of the river; the boats were large, elegant, comfortable, and well managed; the public were amply accommodated; and the steamboat navigation of the Hudson became the praise and wonder of the world. But in 1845 a great step in advance was taken, in the building of the *Isaac Newton*, a floating palace, three hundred feet long, with berths for five hundred passengers. The *New World*, since built, has even grander proportions. No one who has not seen these magnificent vessels can form a just idea of their vastness, their elegance of finish and furnishing, and the completeness of their equipment. Some notion of their costliness may be had from the fact, that, in 1857 and 1858, three hundred thousand dollars were spent in refitting these two boats with new engines and furniture.



In 1847 Mr. George Law built the steamer *Oregon*, and put her on the Hudson as an opposition boat. This contest was ended by a contract made in partnership, by Drew & Law, to run the *Knickerbocker* and *Oregon* to Stonington, to connect with the railroad from that point to Boston. A new and vast field for Mr. Drew's activity was opened, and it was so skilfully occupied, that by the end of 1850 a splendid line of steamers was working on this route, and Mr. Drew, in connection with Mr. Vanderbilt, had obtained possession of a preponderating interest in the Stonington railroad. The principle of making the *interest of the traveling and business public* to coincide with the interest of the owners of the line, which had been so steadily and successfully adhered to on the Hudson, was adopted on the Stonington route. The old *Knickerbocker* was sold; the *Commodore* and *C. Vanderbilt*, two of the finest seaboats ever built, were added to the line, and the public confidence was secured, and has been kept ever since, by the punctuality, safety, and promptitude of the entire service for passengers and freight, as well as for the mails.

In 1852 the Hudson River Railroad was opened, and everybody thought that the passenger-trade of the steamers was doomed. The president of the road had told Mr. Drew before, that, "on the opening of the road to Albany, he might bid good-bye to the steamboats." But these fears and predictions were very wide of the mark. So rapid has been the growth of the country, and so excellent and cheap the accommodations for travel and freight afforded by the steamers, that now, while thousands of passengers are carried daily by rail, the number conveyed in the steamers is greater than ever before.

Mr. Drew's business was still more widely extended by the purchase, in 1849—by Drew, Kelley & Robinson—of the Champlain Transportation Company's stock, a capital of \$150,000, with five steamboats, running from Whitehall to Canada. The line was run successfully till 1856, when it was sold to the Saratoga and Whitehall Railroad Company.

Of all these varied and gigantic operations Mr. Drew has been

the master spirit. When he first entered into the business, Mr. Vanderbilt often said to him, "You have no business in this trade; you don't understand it, and you can't succeed." In fact, not one man in a hundred who has attempted the business has succeeded in it. Since 1836 there have been forty opposition boats on the river, not one of which has been a complete success, while many of them have ruined their owners. Something more than capital is needed in a trade like this, and that is, the personal attention, skill, and watchfulness of the capitalists themselves. From the beginning Mr. Drew has conducted this trade on clear and well-defined principles, and he has had associates—especially the late Isaac Newton, Esq.—capable of appreciating and executing vast and thorough plans. One rule of the line is to *choose the best man* that can be found for each post, and then to keep him. The captain of the *New World* has been in the service since 1834, and many of the other employees have had very long terms. Another rule is to keep the boats *always in perfect order*. No break in wood or iron is allowed to go a day unrepaired; the paint is kept fresh; the brass is shining; the ropes are in order; in short, every thing is in its place, and not only fit for use, but in the highest state of efficiency. A third rule is, that *no law of the service* shall be broken with impunity. In this respect the *régime* of the lines is despotic; every officer knows that while faithful he will be cherished and rewarded, but that carelessness or neglect will be fatal to his prospects. The best proof of the skill and wisdom with which these great steamboat lines have been conducted can be given in one sentence: *no traveler* has ever lost his life by accident on any steamer of which Mr. Drew has had control! When it is remembered that he has been in the business for a quarter of a century, and during part of that time more largely engaged in it, perhaps, than any single man in the world, the fact appears wonderful indeed. So far as we know, it is entirely without parallel in the history of steamboat navigation.

Mr. Drew has never insured his steamboat property. His motto is, that vigilance and just outlays on the service are the best insur-

ance. The result has justified his sagacity. Insurance would have cost him near half a million in twenty years; his losses by accident have been covered by little more than a tenth of that sum.

The business above sketched would be sufficient, one would think, to occupy all the time and thoughts of any man, however eminent in capacity. But it has only formed one department of Mr. Drew's activities. About the year 1836, to give occupation to another person, he embarked a small capital in the banking business in Wall Street. His partner indorsed the extension notes of a friend without consulting Mr. Drew, which caused a loss of over \$30,000. In 1840 he associated with himself Nelson Robinson and R. W. Kelley, under the firm of Drew, Robinson & Co. Mr. Robinson had no capital, but his character and talent had been well tested by Mr. Drew in a previous business connection. The details of the business were conducted by the junior partners, but its leading operations were controlled by Mr. Drew. The success of the firm was remarkable; indeed, no large operation of the house, except one, ever turned out a mistake. The single exception was a loan of near a million to a Trust Company in 1846, a loan made—in deviation from the general rule of the house—contrary to Mr. Drew's advice. Even in that case the securities for the loan—which included a mortgage of a Western railroad—have been so well managed, that no ultimate loss is apprehended.

In 1853, wishing to contract his cares and labors, Mr. Drew retired from the banking business, giving it up to his son-in-law, Mr. Kelley. The house was then as strong in position and character as any in Wall Street. In one year Mr. Drew was called back from his country seat by the death of Mr. Kelley, and had to take up the threads of finance again. Acting on his old principle of using well-trying agents, he took into partnership, in 1855, Mr. E. B. Stanton, who had been one of his clerks. What its success has been no one knows, we suppose, outside of the firm. But the name of the house on a piece of paper gives it currency for more thousands than would build a Western city. Indeed, the single name of Daniel

Drew, indorsed on the acceptances of the Erie Railroad in 1855, to the extent of a million and a half of dollars, sufficed to guarantee their value and to give them currency. These acceptances were duly met. In the summer of 1857 Mr. Drew was called upon again to indorse acceptances to the same amount—a million and a half—and again the money was procured on the credit of his single name. The financial crash came a few months after, and a man of great nerve might well have trembled, in such a time of universal panic, at a responsibility so enormous. But Mr. Drew never flinched—the acceptances were known to be safe, with his name on them, in spite of panic and pressure; and, as they came due, they were all paid off or renewed. They are all now liquidated. A friend asked Mr. Drew, in the height of the panic, whether he “could sleep in these times?” “I have never lost a night’s rest, on account of business, in my life,” was the reply.

In 1857 Mr. Drew was elected a director of the Harlem Railroad. The property was in a very depressed condition, and the floating debt amounted to over \$600,000. Mr. Drew and Mr. Vanderbilt indorsed the acceptances of the road to pay off this debt. The new directors changed the policy of the road; an energetic and capable man, Mr. Campbell, was made President, and the floating debt was paid off by an issue of second mortgage bonds. The profits of the road now pay interest on all its bonds, leaving a surplus to be applied to repairs, renewal of the track, etc. After long adversity, this vast property now gives promise of being regularly productive, and there is a chance that its stockholders may some day begin to get some return for their outlays.

Amid all the cares of this vast and varied business, Mr. Drew has found time for practical agriculture. In this, as in his other pursuits, he has succeeded. He has an estate of nearly a thousand acres, about fifty miles distant from the city, on the Harlem Railroad. His lands are mostly grazing farms, on which Western cattle are fattened for market. In 1858, out of one hundred and twenty cattle sold from the estate, one hundred weighed a thousand pounds



each in the beef, and brought \$100 a head. The farmers are allowed their homes and various perquisites for the care of the cattle, etc., and their interest is made to coincide with that of the owner.

It has already been stated that Mr. Drew was converted and had joined the Methodist Church in 1811. But the "cares of this world choked the word" and he "became unfruitful." For twenty-five years he lived "without God in the world," though not without a certain degree of moral restraint. In 1839 he removed into Bleecker Street, New York. The "Mulberry Street Church," then but a few years old, stood opposite his house, and he attended worship there occasionally, simply because it was "convenient." In 1841, during the pastorate of the Rev. James H. Perry, a protracted meeting was held in the church. Mr. Drew began to attend at night from curiosity. Under the earnest and faithful preaching of the Gospel many souls were touched; the Spirit of God was powerfully poured forth upon the people. Mr. Drew heard the divine voice and obeyed. After going to the altar some eight or ten times, he was reclaimed from his sins, and received the seal of forgiveness. Very soon after, his wife was brought in, and both united with the church. He soon began to take part in the service of the church, praying in the class and prayer meetings, and ready to "wait upon the Lord" in any capacity in which he could be useful.

For many years he has been a trustee of Mulberry Street Church—now St. Paul's; and his money and time have always been at the service of the church in which he was brought to know again the "peace of the Lord Jesus." At his country home he is also steward and trustee. Some years ago a church was built on his home farm, under the direction of his daughter, Mrs. Clapp. It is a tasteful structure, neatly furnished throughout, and capable of seating from one hundred and fifty to two hundred persons. A few years ago there was a gracious revival here, and many souls were converted. In the rear of the church is a school-room, also got up and furnished by Mrs. Clapp, with a library, maps, etc. A classical school has been kept up for several years, and the neighbors have

the privilege of thorough training, *gratis*, for their children. The church and school cost about \$6,000, and the annual cost to Mr. Drew is about \$1,500 a year. Mrs. Clapp—who is a Baptist—superintends the Sunday school, and her husband, the Rev. Mr. Clapp, of the Baptist Church, unites with the circuit preachers in filling the pulpit of the chapel. All Mr. Drew's children and grandchildren over fifteen years of age, are members of the church—either Methodists or Baptists—a striking instance of the power of Christian example and of a well-ordered and godly household in counteracting the corrupting influence of wealth.

Mr. Drew has been for several years a trustee of the Wesleyan University, and of the Biblical Institute at Concord, to both of which he has been a patron and contributor. He is also a trustee of the Troy University. To him, and to a number of other noble Christian men in St. Paul's Church, New York, the church is indebted for examples of missionary contribution in some degree befitting the cause of Christ and the duty of Christians in this age. As might be expected, a man of his wealth is called upon for every charity and public movement in the city, and for very many out of it. Yet we believe that none go empty away, who bring a valid and substantial claim for his assistance.

The foregoing sketch, by Dr. McClintock, brings the biography of Mr. Drew down to the year 1860. Since that time he has been extensively engaged in business, has prosecuted many important enterprises with characteristic intelligence and energy, all of which have been crowned with signal success. Meanwhile his acts of benevolence and philanthropy have been multiplied until the amount bestowed aggregates an enormous sum, exceeding that given by any other individual in the country for the cause of education and the promotion of religion and piety. His benefactions have been spontaneous, the suggestion of his abounding liberality without ostentation or the hope of any other reward than an approving conscience and the satisfaction of improving and elevating the condition of his fellow-men. In 1866 he built a Methodist church in his native

town, and endowed a school in connection therewith, at a cost in all of two hundred and ninety thousand dollars. The following year he built and established the Drew Theological Seminary, in Madison, New Jersey. This costly gift involved an expense of six hundred thousand dollars. About this time he made a donation to the Wesleyan University at Middletown, Connecticut, of a hundred thousand dollars, after having made the institution several presents in money besides, amounting in all to about twenty thousand dollars.

He has given liberally to different churches in the South and West, and to St. Paul's Church in Fourth Avenue, New York, he donated the handsome sum of thirty thousand dollars.

In addition to the numerous steam-vessels, enumerated by Dr. McClintock, as having been put upon the Hudson by Mr. Drew, he has since built the *St. John*, the *Dean Richmond*, and the *Drew*, three as beautiful specimens of nautical architecture as float upon our waters.

Our sketch of Mr. Drew is necessarily brief and imperfect. The plan of the publishers precludes that fullness of detail which is necessary to a complete presentation of the attributes of this extraordinary man. Mr. Drew is still in robust health, and apparently has many years of active labor before him. His various enterprises have added largely to the wealth and prosperity of New York, and in this sense he has been one of the benefactors of the metropolis. But he has been a benefactor, in a far higher and nobler sense, in affording an example of industry, energy, and business talent of the highest order, combined with a sense of personal honor, and unimpeachable integrity. In the church, his modest but steadfast testimony, given in the class-room, the prayer meeting, and the love-feast, has been of incalculable value, especially to young men of business. May he long be spared to enjoy the fruits of his industry, and to share in advancing the kingdom of Christ on earth, not merely by his Christian use of the large wealth of which God has made him the steward, but also by his personal services to the church and by his living example of peaceful and yet active piety!









John Taylor Johnston

## JOHN TAYLOR JOHNSTON.

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THE subject of this sketch was born of wealthy parents, in the city of New York, on the 8th of April, 1820. His father was John Johnston, of the well-known firm of Boorman and Johnston, one of our stanchest merchants, respected both in our own land and in Europe for his business integrity and enterprise, and for his Christian benevolence and patronage of learning. His mother, who still lives to exemplify the Christian virtues in a vigorous and cheerful old age, was the daughter of John Taylor, another merchant of the antique stamp, whom we trace back into the Revolutionary war for the independence of our country. From his parents, John Taylor Johnston inherited a vigorous constitution and an even temper; and from them he received such wholesome counsels—moral, religious, and intellectual—as are best fitted to start a boy on a successful career. His success in life may be traced to these primary causes as easily as a river to its sources in the springs and rivulets of hills and mountains.

Both his parents were of Scotch ancestry, and it was not strange that they should wish their first-born son to have the benefit of the bracing air and the vigorous instruction of old Scotland. Accordingly, at the age of twelve, while on a visit to their native land, they placed him at the High School of Edinburgh, where he remained a year and a half, receiving such stimulus to his Scotch blood and laying up such pleasant stories for future reminiscence, that he has ever since been known for his love of “the land o’ cakes.”

At the age of nineteen, he graduated at the University of the City of New York, in the class of 1839. He was regarded as one of the best scholars in his class. Choosing the legal profession he

at once entered the Law School of New Haven, and subsequently the office of Daniel Lord in New York City, in both of which he showed the same application and industry which had characterized him at the university, an example rare enough among the sons of wealthy parents. In his studies he doubtless laid the foundation of his success as a business man, by the formation of those habits of patient inquiry, assiduous attention, and untiring perseverance, which, regulated by method and system, give him absolute command of all his faculties and of all his time. In the investigation of a subject, nothing seems to escape his observation which could have the least bearing on the case.

He was admitted to the bar in 1843. Soon afterward he went abroad, and continued traveling in Europe during two years or more, when he returned to New York and resumed the practice of law.

Another course was, however, marked out for him; for "there is a divinity which shapes our ends, rough hew them as we will." And little by little he loosed himself from the law, for pursuits more congenial to his constructive tastes, until the spring of 1848, when, at the early age of twenty-eight, he took the presidency of the Central Railroad of New Jersey. This railroad, then known as the Elizabethtown and Somerville Railroad, was at that time only a few miles long, and struggling for existence. It now reaches from its extensive station-grounds and princely property on the Hudson river, opposite New York, across the State of New Jersey to Easton, Pennsylvania, where it connects with the net-work of railways ramifying through the anthracite coal-fields of Pennsylvania, all built since and in connection with the main road; and in the construction of most of which Mr. Johnston was largely and actively interested. The stimulus given to the coal trade has been so great, that the products of the Lehigh, Lackawanna, Wyoming, and companion coal-fields have risen from less than 5,000,000 tons in 1852, when the road was opened to Easton, to nearly 16,000,000 tons in 1870. A great impetus was also given to



business between the West and New York by the subsequent opening over this road of a new and shorter line than any in existence; and the benefits derived from the *Allentown Line* will long be felt, though the company have now, in a measure, abandoned the through trade for more profitable business. The local business of the line has always received great attention from Mr. Johnston, and under his fostering care the country has improved with great rapidity. Towns have grown into cities, villages into towns, and new settlements are constantly springing up. The almost unexampled growth of Plainfield, his summer residence, and where he is the largest landed proprietor, shows the stimulus given by his presence. As much of the road is a tangent line, two parallel highways have been planned and opened, affording unrivalled facilities for reaching the railway stations, as well as giving base-lines for improvements, and enabling the company to do away with many dangerous level crossings. Great changes are always made by a railroad; but it would be difficult to find a road which has produced as many and great changes as this has caused; and still more difficult would it be to find one more deservedly popular with all those who depend upon its facilities. The courtesy shown to all by its chief is followed by the subordinates, and few complaints of incivility are heard, and fewer still left unattended to.

Considering how much Mr. Johnston's business life has been identified with the anthracite coal trade, it is somewhat of a coincidence that the very first shipment to market of hard coal (or *stone* coal as it was then called) was made in 1820, the year in which he was born.

In connection with this railway and resulting from the necessary purchases of water front when the road was carried to the Hudson, opposite New York, Mr. Johnston has projected a vast system of wharfs, basins, and docks, involving an extensive reclamation of lands on the Jersey Flats, on the plan of raising the reclaimed parts above water with the mud dredged from the slips and basins.

In this way, while no appreciable injury will be done to the harbor of New York, almost boundless facilities can be provided for commerce. Thus a great work has already been done, and extensive facilities provided for the railway and for general commerce; but the whole plan is too large for one generation, and is only intended for execution as the business of New York and of the road shall require.

In 1850 Mr. Johnston was married to the daughter of James Colles, of New Orleans. His head and heart were in their usual harmony in the affair, and hence he was as fortunate in this, as in all his other transactions, and has been eminently happy in this relation for the very best reasons in the world. In all his domestic relations he has ever been, and is, among the most fortunate of men. Having all that the affections can impart, together with all the adornments which wealth and taste can add to make home happy, his well-regulated household affords him the purest enjoyment and recreation after the cares of the day. At his business he seems to have no heart and no time for any thing else but the particular business on hand; at home he seems to have devoted all his time and all his heart to his family.

His library is among the best private libraries in the city, and his picture-gallery is scarcely surpassed by any in the country. Here among the choicest paintings of the best artists stands that gem of the sculptor's art, Cleopatra, by our native Story.

Such are the sources of enjoyment for himself and friends which Mr. Johnston has provided in the midst of his busy life. The fine arts have seldom found a more devoted friend in our country; and it is a great part of his pleasure to have his friends participate in his happiness. Every fifth year it is his custom to invite his university classmates to a dinner at his house, and his friendships have ever been uniform, pleasant, and constant.

The University, his Alma Mater, has had good reason to rejoice in his friendship. His father was one of its founders and largest benefactors, and the son has not been less devoted to its interests

than the father whom he succeeded as vice-president of its Council. The father's portrait hangs on the walls of its council-chamber, and the son's name is inscribed on the Law Library as its donor. Its Alumni Association owes its vitality to his liberal attention, and for a long time has annually re-elected him its president.

His Scotch proclivities crop out in a friendly way. For thirty years he has been a genial member of the St. Andrew's Society, and has held all its offices in regular rotation. He enjoys "auld acquaintance" and "auld langsyne" prodigiously, and has not the least objection in the world to "whang at the bannocks of barley meal."

He is also a member of numerous boards and committees of benevolent, literary, and business institutions; in all of which he performs his duties punctually and faithfully. No office with him, great or small, is a sinecure. If he thinks a thing worth doing, he does it; otherwise he has nothing to do with it. What he does, he does thoroughly.

Notwithstanding all these various labors and enterprises, he has found time to gratify his scholarly tastes and to keep up with the current literature of the day; and at intervals has made several visits to Europe with his family.

Mr. Johnston is well known as a liberal contributor to the various religious and benevolent institutions. In this he follows in the steps of his noble-hearted father, whose maxim was, "*Giving does a man good*;" and whose benefactions are like orchards which yield fruit long after the men who planted the trees are dead. He exercises caution in this as in other matters, and always inquires before he gives, so as to be sure that his giving shall do others as much good as himself. The writer of this remembers hearing him say, full twenty-five years ago, "*I consider it just as much my duty to give to these benevolent institutions as to pay my butcher's bills.*" Giving seems to have done him no hurt, but good, as it did his father before him.

His wealth has steadily increased. It has accumulated on his









*James E. English*

## JAMES E. ENGLISH.

BY T. N. PARMELEE.



THE man who springs from no elevated rank in life, and becomes opulent, and of high social consideration, by dint of his own unaided efforts—and if to that be added high political preferment and offices of responsibility and power, conferred spontaneously by those who appreciate his worth—has a higher claim upon popular admiration, every thing else being equal, than one of aristocratic lineage and ancestral estate. We are not of those who unduly magnify indigence and toil, and regard self-made men as pre-eminently worthy of the respect and confidence of the community. On the contrary, we hold early advantages, careful nurture in childhood, and a thorough training, which is so much more effective in youth, as blessings of incalculable value, and for whose absence there is no adequate compensation. What we mean is, that the man of humble origin, whose industry, energy, and power of will have enabled him to surmount those drawbacks and place himself on the same plane with his more favored contemporary, commands our good opinion in a higher degree, in so far as we are better assured of his capacity to promote the good of his fellows, in the senate or the executive council, or in the walks of every-day life. The artificer of his own fortune has a clearer perception of what is due to others than the man who inherited what he possesses, and he has a more active and generous sympathy for those who are struggling to make their way in the world. A truly representative man of this class is James E. English, the present governor of the State of Connecticut. His ancestor, Benjamin English, removed from Salem, Massachusetts, to New Haven, early in the last century, and the family have ever

since resided there. They have always held a respectable position in society, and enjoyed the general respect and esteem of their contemporaries. This was especially true of James English, the father of the governor. He acquired a competent estate and reared a large family, comprising six sons and three daughters, all of whom lived to years of maturity. The sons were prosperous business men in the place of their nativity. The grandfather of Governor English, Captain Benjamin English, was a shipmaster, and commanded several vessels plying between New Haven and foreign ports. During the Presidency of Mr. Jefferson he was appointed to an office in the custom-house of his native town, which he held up to the time of his death, in 1807. The father of Captain English was killed by the British troops under General Tryon, who invaded Connecticut in 1779. And it may be added here that both the governor and his paternal ancestors have been uninterruptedly identified with the Democratic party since the organization of the government under the Federal Constitution.

The educational advantages enjoyed by the subject of our sketch were limited to the rudimental teachings common to the schools of the day. That they were circumscribed, is attested by the fact that they were interrupted at a period of his life when the tender mind is most susceptible to instruction.

Mr. English gave evidence in his early youth of that remarkable self-reliance and independence of thought and action which have distinguished him, in his private as well as public life, from childhood to mature age. It has been his uniform habit to think and act for himself under all circumstances. He has always been firm and decided, without obstinacy persistent and determined, without rashness or presumption. From the time when, a mere child, he insisted upon earning his own livelihood, and obtained his father's reluctant consent to strike out a course for himself, and engaged to labor on a farm some thirty miles from home, and through all the various enterprises by which he accumulated an ample fortune, he relied on his own resources, and prosecuted his extended business

with that intelligence, activity, and perseverance, which could not fail to command success, and all by his own unaided exertions. When about to embark in the lumber trade, a wealthy friend, who appreciated his capacity, integrity, and aptitude for the management of an extended business, offered to advance a large sum of money and become interested in the transactions—the industry and intelligence of Mr. English to constitute an equivalent for the capital to be invested. This proposition, although a liberal one, he gratefully declined, preferring to work out his fortune himself.

He remained away from home for two years, diligently assisting in the labors of the farm, when he returned to his parents. He attended school for two years after he came back, devoting himself specially to the study of architectural drawing, in which he became signally proficient. He was then apprenticed to a master carpenter, and during his term of service made plans for several conspicuous edifices in New Haven, some of which still remain as ornaments of the city.

On attaining his majority, in 1833, he immediately became a master-builder, and continued that pursuit for two years with great success. For a period of more than twenty years he was engaged in the lumber trade, both in New Haven and Albany. During this time he became the owner of several vessels, and established a freight line between New Haven and Albany, and Philadelphia. He prosecuted this extensive business with his accustomed intelligence and energy, and his exertions were rewarded with ample returns.

For the last fifteen years he has been interested in large manufacturing establishments in different parts of the State, to the number of fifteen, to which he has given much time and attention. He has been the principal manager of the business of the New Haven Clock Company, the largest concern of the kind in the world; and in that capacity has visited Europe three several times to promote the sale of its wares. On the last occasion he remained abroad nearly a year, making a complete tour of Europe. He is also president of the Goodyear Metallic Rubber Shoe Company, one



of the largest establishments of the kind in the United States, and an active director in several other large and well-managed companies, all successfully prosecuting their several branches of industry.

As a business man he is distinguished for practical sagacity, forecast, and sound judgment. In the numerous enterprises with which he has been connected, his penetration and discernment have rarely been at fault, and his associates have always accepted his suggestions and advice with unhesitating confidence. The result is seen in the large fortune he has acquired, and which he unostentatiously and quietly enjoys, dispensing a liberal hospitality, and bestowing large sums upon charitable and philanthropic objects, as well as aiding industrious and deserving young men to successfully establish themselves in business. And it is worthy of mention, in this connection, that his entire wealth has been the result of legitimate business transactions, Mr. English never having been a "speculator" in any sense of the word.

The connection of Governor English with political life dates back more than twenty years, and during that period he has been constantly in some public employment. Being a man of innate modesty, and never seeking distinction or notoriety of any kind, offices of every description have been thrust upon him, frequently against his wishes, and occasionally in spite of his earnest remonstrances. He was for many years in the municipal councils of his native city and town, and also a member of both branches of the Legislature, having been elected to the Senate for several successive years. He was chosen a member of Congress in 1861, and again in 1863, serving through the first four years of the Rebellion. He was on the Committee on Naval Affairs in the 37th Congress, and so efficient and valuable were his services in that capacity, and so highly were they appreciated by the Navy Department, that upon the coming in of the next Congress, a new organization of the Naval Committee involving some changes as a matter of course, and Mr. Colfax, in advance of being chosen speaker, having promised to sub-

stitute Mr. Brandagee, a Republican from the New London District, in place of Mr. English, Mr. Welles personally and earnestly solicited the retention of Mr. English, stating that it was highly important that his services should be retained as a member of that committee. He served on the Committee on Public Lands in the 38th Congress. Though an earnest Democrat in principle and from conviction, he zealously supported the war measures of the administration, voting for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and for the National Emancipation Act. He, however, opposed the Legal Tender Bill and the National Bank system. He foresaw the pernicious tendency of those measures, and the arguments by which he resisted their passage have never been answered, while the disastrous effect upon the industrial and commercial interests of the country attests the soundness of his reasoning. Although possessing large manufacturing interests to be benefited by class legislation, he has ever been a strenuous opponent of protection for the sake of protection, and a warm advocate of all measures of revenue reform.

He was chosen governor in 1867, carrying the election by his personal popularity, at a time when nearly every State in the Union was under the domination of the Republicans, thus giving the first check to the usurpations of that powerful organization, and turning back the tide of fanaticism. He was re-elected in 1868, and again in 1870. And it is no more than justice to him to say, that the present prosperous condition of the great Democratic party throughout the country and its steadily increasing strength, are in a large measure to be ascribed to the revolution in Connecticut which Governor English inaugurated and conducted to a triumphant consummation. He is a firm believer in the right of the States to manage their own domestic concerns in their own way, and the points made by him, in his several messages and other State papers, in defense of this right, have been most felicitously put, and never successfully answered.

He was nominated as one of the Presidential electors of the

State at large in the campaign of 1868, and was a conspicuous candidate for the Presidency before the Democratic National Convention.

Governor English has taken an absorbing interest in the cause of education, having repeatedly urged upon the Legislature, in his official capacity, the establishment of a system of education which should open the schools to every child in the State without distinction, and free of all charge for tuition. And nothing but his persevering exertions and great personal influence could have overcome the strong opposition with which the proposition was received on its inception. And the indigent people of Connecticut, whose offspring have free access to the excellent schools of the State on the same footing as the children of the opulent, owe that inestimable privilege to the wise benevolence and enlightened statesmanship of Governor English. He may justly claim the distinction, accorded him by the friends of education throughout the State, of being "the father of the free-school system," while his valuable services in the higher walks of instruction have been recognized in his appointment as one of the councilors of the Sheffield Scientific School connected with Yale College.

Having summed up the most conspicuous events of his life, and referred, although superficially, to his public career, it only remains for us to present a hasty and imperfect view of the attributes of his character and the estimation in which he is held by those among whom his days have been spent, and who are qualified to appreciate his excellence and the beneficent influence which he has constantly exerted upon society.

As a man of sound sense and practical wisdom in all that relates to the every-day concerns of life, Mr. English is pre-eminent among his fellows. He is a man of quick perception, fine faculties, with a power of generalization quite extraordinary in one of his habits of life. His reasoning powers are uncommon, and he has a ready, thorough appreciation of the force of an argument presented in a controversial discussion. He makes no pre-

tensions as a scholar, but he writes fluently and with precision, conveying his meaning in terse and well-chosen language. He has great executive ability, and the functions of his high office are performed with that degree of skill, intelligence, and integrity which insures a successful administration. He is liberal, philanthropic, and gives freely of his large wealth in aid of every charity and every well-directed public enterprise. He enjoys the unmixed respect and esteem of his neighbors, and has troops of warm friends to whom he has endeared himself by countless acts of humanity and kindness. He has a sound constitution, is full of activity and vigor, of regular, abstemious habits, and leads a blameless life, illustrated by intelligent benevolence and warm-hearted friendship.









Wm D. Kelley

## HON. WILLIAM D. KELLEY.



THE Republican party is the legitimate heir of the old Federal and Whig parties—the parties of Washington and Webster—which, in the ancient and mediæval periods of the Republic, as they may be termed, illustrated the sentiment and the idea of nationality as opposed to the heresy of State sovereignty.

There is, nevertheless, flowing in the veins of this great Republican organization much of the best blood of the old Democratic party. The men who adopted the political teachings of Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, and the inspirer of the ordinance of 1789, who heartily believed the great American doctrines of the freedom and equality of all men, and the power and duty of the nation to protect the national domain from the pollution of human slavery, passed, by a natural transition, into the Republican ranks when the Democratic party abandoned the faith of its fathers, and became the embodiment of a “creed outworn.”

Among the men of the Democratic party who earliest separated from “its decaying forms,” and contributed to organize a new party, in the light of truth and reason, on the basis of inherent, inalienable right, was the subject of this sketch—William Darrah Kelley.

He was born in the Northern Liberties of Philadelphia, on the 12th of April, 1814. His grandfather, Major John Kelley, was a native of Salem county, New Jersey, and served throughout the Revolution as an officer of the Continental line. The son of this Revolutionary officer, and the father of the subject of this memoir—David Kelley—removed from New Jersey to Philadelphia,

where he married a lady of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Miss Hannah Darrah. The cloud of financial embarrassment which, at the close of the war of 1812, darkened the horizon, cast its deep shadow over the fortunes of Mr. Kelley; and by his death, in 1816, his widow was left, without an estate, to support and educate a dependent family of four children, the youngest of whom—William—was but two years of age. Mrs. Kelley struggled nobly and well to fulfill this great trust, and lived to witness the consummation of her most ambitious hopes in the prosperity and advancement of her distinguished son.

At eleven years of age, it became necessary that William should earn his own living. He accordingly left school, and became an errand-boy in a bookstore, then a copy-reader in the office of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* newspaper, and finally an apprentice to Messrs. Rickards & Dubosq, manufacturing jewelers, of Philadelphia. He attained his freedom in the spring of 1834. This was the era of the removal of the deposits from the United States Bank; and Mr. Kelley's first experience in political leadership was gained in encouraging and organizing the resistance of the Democratic workingmen to the tyrannous demands of the Whig capitalists of Philadelphia. The stand he took on this question rendered it difficult for him to obtain employment in his native city. He accordingly removed to Boston, and at once secured a situation in the establishment of Messrs. Clark & Curry. In Boston, the spirit of New England culture took deep hold upon his nature. While laboring with characteristic industry in the most difficult branch of his trade, the art of enameling—and achieving a high reputation as a skilful and tasteful workman, he improved his scholarship by solitary study; and his contributions to the newspapers of the day, and written and extemporaneous lectures and addresses before public audiences, established his reputation as a writer and speaker of ability and power, in association even with such men as Bancroft, Brownson, Alexander H. Everett, Channing, and Emerson.

In 1839, he returned to Philadelphia, and entered, as a student of law, the office of Colonel James Page, a local leader of the Democratic party, and the postmaster of Philadelphia. On April 17, 1841, he was admitted to the bar of the several courts of his native city. His advancement in the profession was immediate and rapid; while, in every political canvass, local and national, his stirring addresses attracted large audiences, and rendered him one of the most conspicuous figures in the Democratic party. In January, 1845, he was appointed by the attorney-general of the State, Hon. John K. Kane—to conduct, in connection with Francis Wharton, Esq., who has since become celebrated as a writer on criminal law, the pleas of the Commonwealth in the courts of Philadelphia. In March, 1846, Governor Shunk appointed Mr. Kelley a judge of the Court of Common Pleas, a tribunal whose jurisdiction was co-extensive with the common law, chancery, and ecclesiastical courts of England. In 1851, he was elected to the same bench, under the new constitution of the State, upon an independent ticket, in defiance of the attempted proscription of the Democratic party organization, which was embittered against him for his course in the contested election case of Reed and Kneass. This was a triumphant vindication by the people of the justice and integrity of his action in that cause.

But Judge Kelley did not confine himself to the topics of his profession or to the discussion of political questions. The protection of the weak and down-trodden, the reformation of the ignorant and vicious, and the promotion of education, have ever found in him an eloquent and powerful advocate. His remarkable powers of oratory gave additional effect to his chaste and polished style, and few public speakers have proved so effective. We offer the following passages from an address of his before the Linnæan Society of Pennsylvania college, Gettysburg, on the "Characteristics of the Age," delivered over twenty years ago, as giving an idea of the felicity and beauty of his style as a writer. The earnestness and the clear ringing tones of the orator are wanting to give it full effect.



"I would not disparage the value of the 'little learning' which enables a man to read and write his mother-tongue with facility. When 'commerce is king,' the ability to do this is little less than essential to the physical well-being of the citizen. Under such government the receipt-book peaceably enough performs a large share of the functions of the embattled wall and armed retainers of the days when force was law. But to rise above the commercial value of these slender attainments, he who can read the language of Shakespeare and Milton, Johnson and Addison, Shelley and Wordsworth, has the key to the collected wisdom of his race. The farms around his workshop, the property of others, present to his view a landscape which is his, and to him belongs every airy nothing to which poet ever gave habitation or name. The sages of the most remote past obey his call as counselors and friends; and in the company of prophet and apostle he may approach the presence of the Most High. The value of such a gift is inestimable. Wisdom and justice would make it the certain heritage of every child born in the commonwealth.

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"The spirit of commerce is essentially selfish. Voyages are projected for profit. The merchant, whose liberal gifts surprise the world, chaffers in his bargains. Not for man as a family of brethren, therefore, are the blessings of this age. They are the gifts of a common Father, but they come not, like light and dew, insensibly to all. They mark the achievements of our race, and manifest the master-spirit of the age, but hitherto they have been felt but slightly by the masses of mankind. Wealth increases; but its aggregation into few hands takes place with ever-growing rapidity. The comforts of life abound; but when the markets of the world are glutted, hunger is in the home of the artisan. Over-production causes the legitimate effects of famine. The ingenuity of political economists is vainly taxed for the means of preventing the accumulation of surplus material and fabrics. And while warehouse and granary groan with repletion, heartless theory

points to the laboring population reduced to want and pauperism; and, with dogmatic emphasis, inquires if the increase of population cannot be legally restrained? The state of the market shows that there are more men than commerce requires, and a just system of economy would adapt the supply to the demand!

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“Ancient philosophy did not recognize utility as an aim. It contemned, as mechanical and degrading, the discovery or invention that improved man’s physical condition. Socrates invented no steam-engine or spinning-jenny. The soul was his constant study. Regardless of his own estate, he cared not for the material comfort of others. Indifferent to the world himself, he sought to raise his disciples above it. A disputatious idler and a scoffer at utility, he fashioned Plato and swayed the world for centuries. Our philosophy comes from Bacon. It only deals with the wants of man and uses of nature. The body is the object of its solicitude. Earth is the field of its hopes. Time bounds its horizon. Fruit, material fruit—the multiplication of the means of temporal enjoyment—was the end Lord Bacon had in view, when, denouncing the schools, he gave his theory to the world. Time and experience have vindicated his methods. But have they not also shown, that a system which offers no sanction to virtue and no restraints to vice, whose only instruments are the senses, and whose only subject is material law, may impart to a world the vices which made the wisest also the meanest of mankind?”

In August, 1856, Judge Kelley was nominated, while absent from home, as the Republican candidate for Congress from the fourth Congressional district of Pennsylvania. He was not elected; for the Republican idea had made at that day but feeble impression in Philadelphia, and the party was without means or organization. During that canvass he made his first great Republican address on “Slavery in the Territories,” in Spring Garden Hall, Philadelphia. Motives of delicacy prompted him to resign his judicial office immediately after the election, and he returned, after a term of

nine years and nine months on the bench, to the private practice of his profession. In October, 1860, he was elected on the Republican ticket to the seat in Congress to which he has been five times since returned by his constituents. On his return from the special session of Congress which convened on July 4th, 1861, he participated as counsel for the Government, in the prosecution of the pirates of the rebel privateer *Jeff Davis*, and made a brilliant closing argument in that great State trial. In Congress he has spoken at length upon every national topic; and, in most instances, he has borne the standard of his party, and planted it far in advance, holding it with firm and steady hand, until his friends occupied the position.

As early as January 7, 1862, he detected the fatal errors of the military policy of McClellan, and warned the country of the incompetency of that officer, in an impromptu reply to the speech of Vallandigham, on the Trent case. On the 16th of January, 1865, he vindicated, in an elaborate speech, the justice and necessity of impartial suffrage as a fundamental condition of the restoration of republican governments in the rebel States. On the 22d of June, 1865, in an address on "The Safeguards of Personal Liberty," at Concert Hall, Philadelphia, he criticised the policy of reconstruction foreshadowed by President Johnson in his North Carolina proclamation, and indicated a plan of action, in respect to the rebel States, which has been since substantially embodied in the Reconstruction Acts of Congress. In his speech on "Protection to American Labor," delivered in the House of Representatives, on the 31st of January, 1866, he indicated a financial policy, in reference to the payment of the public debt, which Congress has fully adopted in the repeal of the cotton-tax, and the modification of the duties on manufactured products. In connection with these remarkable speeches, may be mentioned his speech on the 27th of February, 1866, on "the Constitutional Regulation of Suffrage." Two of Judge Kelley's speeches in Congress—that of January 16, 1865, on Suffrage, and that of January 31, 1866, on Labor—have had

more extensive circulation than the speeches of any other American statesman. More than half a million copies of each have been printed and distributed.

At the first session of the XXXIX. Congress, Judge Kelley introduced the bill, which was afterwards passed with certain modifications, to secure the right of suffrage to the colored population of the District of Columbia.

On the evening of the 22d of February, 1868, he spoke in favor of the impeachment of the President, and more recently participated in the debate in the House of Representatives on the resolution of Mr. Broomall, of Pennsylvania, to prohibit hereditary exclusion from the right of suffrage, and defended the position taken by him in his more extended speech, two years before, on the Constitutional Regulation of Suffrage.

We have not space even to mention the numerous speeches and addresses of Judge Kelley in and out of Congress. He has addressed his fellow-citizens from the lakes to the gulf. In the spring of 1867, he visited the Southern States, and in a series of addresses at New Orleans, Montgomery, and other cities, spoke earnest and eloquent words of hope and encouragement to the people of the South. The noble wisdom and tender humanity which pervade these speeches, stamp them as the production of a statesman and a philanthropist. They were words of friendly counsel, which the people of the South would do well to heed.

A comprehensive, national character, and a generous, intense, all-embracing humanity, have always characterized Judge Kelley's political opinions. He saw in the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, conclusive evidence that the Democratic party had become sectional; and he left it. He found that Democracy, which once had meant civil and religious liberty, equality, justice, advancement, the greatest good of the greatest number, had come to mean proscription of opinion, aristocracy, tyranny, disorder, slavery; and he abandoned it.

He is therefore one of the fathers of the National Republican



party. The sincerity and earnestness of his convictions would always gain for him the attention of the House of Representatives, if it were not commanded by the striking and engaging peculiarities of his eloquence. He appears with equal advantage in impromptu reply, and in elaborately prepared address. His vehement declamation, delivered in tones of voice marvelously rich and powerful, thrills, on occasions, the members upon the floor and the listeners in the galleries; as when, on the memorable night of the 22d of February, he exclaimed:—

“Sir, the bloody and untilled fields of the ten reconstructed States, the unsheeted ghosts of the two thousand murdered negroes in Texas, cry, if the dead ever invoke vengeance, for the punishment of Andrew Johnson.”

Judge Kelley is altogether the most considerable public character whom Philadelphia ever sent to the national councils. She has too few of such men—men of progressive ideas, commanding talents, and national fame; and when one has served her, as Judge Kelley has, through eight years of eventful history, it becomes her duty, as a just community, to cherish and honor him.

Judge Kelley served in the XLI. Congress, and has just been re-elected. In the organization of the House, he was placed on the Committee of Ways and Means, and that of Coinage, Weights, and Measures. As a member of the previous House he has devoted himself assiduously to the promotion of the repeal of all duties imposed on articles of food and raw materials for manufacture, for which we depend upon foreign countries. In these he would have absolute free trade. But as to the articles into the production of which our native material and labor enters, he is an extreme protectionist. In this respect he may be regarded as the representative man of his native State, to the interests of whose people he is proudly devoted, as is shown by the following extract from his speech in the House of Representatives on March 25, 1870:—

“Sir, I am proud of dear old Pennsylvania, my native State. She was the first to adopt the Federal Constitution, and was in fact the key-stone of the Federal arch,



holding together the young Union when it consisted of but thirteen States, and she is to-day pre-eminently the representative State of the Union. You cannot strike her so that her industries shall bleed without those of other States feeling it, and feeling it vitally. She has no cotton, or sugar, or rice fields; but apart from these she is identified with every interest represented upon this floor.

"Gentlemen from the rocky coast of New England and the gentlemen who are here from the more fertile and hospitable shores of the Pacific, especially the gentlemen from the beautifully wooded shores of Puget Sound, complain that their ship-yards are idle. Hers, alas! are also idle, although they are the yards in which were built the largest wooden ship the Government ever put afloat, and the largest sailing iron-clad it ever owned. She has her commerce, and sympathizes with young San Francisco and our great commercial metropolis, New York. She was for long years the leading port of entry in the country. She still maintains a respectable direct commerce and imports, very largely through New York, for the same reasons that London does through Liverpool and Paris through Havre.

"Are you interested in the production of fabrics, whether of silk, wool, flax, or cotton? If so, her interests are identical with yours, for she employs as many spindles and looms as any New England State, and their productions are as various and valuable. Are your interests in the commerce upon the lakes? Then go with me to her beautiful city of Erie, and behold how Pennsylvania sympathizes with all your interests there. Are your interests identified with the navigation of the Mississippi and seeking markets for your products at the mouth of that river and on the Gulf? I pray you to remember that two of the navigable sources of the American 'Father of Waters' take their rise in the bosom of her mountains, and that for long decades her enterprising and industrious people have been plucking from her hills bituminous coal and floating it down that stream past the coal-fields of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and other coal-bearing States, to meet that of England in the market of New Orleans and try to drive it thence. Gentlemen from the gold regions, where were the miners trained who first brought to light, with any measure of science and experience, the vast resources in gold and silver-bearing quartz of the Pacific slope? They went to you from the coal, iron, and zinc mines of Pennsylvania. There they had learned to sink the shaft, run the drift, handle the ore, and crush or smelt it. It was experience acquired in her mines that brought out the wealth of California almost as magically as we were taught in childhood to believe that Aladdin's lamp could convert base articles into precious metal.

"Nor, sir, are the interests of Pennsylvania at variance with those of the great agricultural States. Before her Representatives in the two Houses of Congress had united their voices with those of gentlemen from the West to make magnificent land-grants for the purpose of constructing railroads in different directions across the treeless but luxuriously fertile prairies, Pennsylvania was first among the great agricultural States. And to-day her products of the field, the garden, the orchard, and the dairy equal in value those of any other State. Gentlemen from Ohio, notwithstanding the statement of the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Allison), that you alone manufacture Scotch pig-iron and suffer from its importation, as you alone have the black band ore from which it is made, is it not true that when Pennsylvania demands a tariff that will protect the wages of her laborers in the mine, quarry, and furnace, she does but defend the interest and rights of your laborers, and those of every other iron-bearing State in the Union? Gentlemen from Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina, Pennsylvania is denounced, because she pleads for a duty on coal that will enable you to develop your magnificent

tide-water coal-fields in competition with Nova Scotia. The coal of your tide-water fields is far more available than that of the inland fields of Pennsylvania, which depend on railroads for transportation. On the banks of the James, the Dan, and a score of other navigable rivers, lie coal-beds to within a few hundred feet of which the vessels which are to carry the precious fuel away may come, and they lie nearer to the markets of New England than those of your colonial rivals at Nova Scotia; and when you were not here and Virginia and North Carolina were voiceless on this floor, I pleaded with the Thirty-Ninth Congress for the duty of \$1.25 per ton in order that Virginia and North Carolina, soon to be reconstructed, should be able to produce fuel for New England better and cheaper than Nova Scotia does, and that it should be carried in New England built vessels, so that the thousands of people employed in producing and transporting it should constitute a market for the grain of the Western farmer and the productions of American workshops. I might, Mr. Chairman, extend the illustration of the identity of the interests of Pennsylvania with those of the people of every other State, but will not detain the committee longer on that subject. In leaving it I, however, reiterate my assertion that you cannot strike a blow at her industries without the people of at least half a score of other States feeling it as keenly as she will. She asks no boon from Congress. Her people, whether they depend for subsistence upon their daily toil, or have been so fortunate as to have inherited or acquired capital, seek no special privileges from the Government. They demand that we shall legislate for the promotion of the equal welfare of all. They know that they must share the common fate, and that their prosperity depends upon that of their countrymen at large."

## SAMUEL J. TILDEN.

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HERE is no other country where the position of a lawyer reaches the dignity and power that it possesses here. He has not here, in front of him, an aristocracy of hereditary title or of wealth. If a leader in his profession, he is in the front himself. If his professional pursuits carry him, in his career, beyond the investigation of subjects of mere personal interest, he becomes versed in constitutional questions, in the principles that guide the grandest civil interests and the state itself. If his oratory has the true fire, his leadership is supported by the tide of popularity. If he is a profound thinker, his counsel becomes controlling among his associates. If he has physical energy, his influence becomes active and real. If he acquires honest wealth, the independence it brings takes off all the weight from him in the race; and if his character secures for him a reputation for integrity and the honor of his countrymen, he has the whole field open to him, and he becomes the representative of a power beyond his own.

The foundation of true virtue, as of true genius, is force. Force accomplishes results. The vindication of success demonstrates that a man does not march counter to his time and to human progress, but that he represents an idea at the precise time when that idea is worth representing; that if the times that try men's souls come, he has a soul worth trying. Whoever does not succeed is of no use to the world, and he passes away as if he never existed.

These are reflections proper to an estimate of the character of Samuel J. Tilden. At the point, in his course, when the world

opened before him he chose the profession of a lawyer, and has, in singleness of purpose, pursued the path of his profession with a diligence that has placed him, midway in a whole life's course, in a position of which all the advantages are in his power.

His first entry upon public life was in the political campaign in 1832, which resulted in the election of General Jackson to his second term of the Presidency. At that time William L. Marcy was governor of the State of New York, beginning an administration known as the Albany Regency. The opposition to the Jackson or Democratic ticket depended upon the coalition between the national Republican party and the Anti-masons, a political fragment, of brief existence on a local issue, which was made up of men drawn from each of the main parties. Success in the election, as shown by the event which terminated the political history of the Anti-masons, depended upon discrediting the coalition and withdrawing from it old Democrats into the ranks of their own party. Although he was but eighteen years of age, Mr. Tilden had already explored the facts and principles of this political situation, which had been for some years a leading question in State politics; and, of his own motion, had written a paper leveled directly at the result, and this accidentally came to light.

At his father's house in New Lebanon, Columbia County, New York, he had formed an acquaintance with the great statesmen of the Jacksonian era—William L. Marcy, Martin Van Buren, A. C. Flagg, Silas Wright, Michael Hoffman, and the Livingstons. His father was a farmer, from English ancestors who settled in Massachusetts, at Scituate, in 1626, removed to Connecticut in 1715, and thence to Columbia County, in 1790. He was a neighbor of Mr. Van Buren and the Livingstons, and was himself not without influence among the statesmen who were his friends. Mr. Tilden's paper becoming known in this circle, it was taken to Albany, and appeared in the *Albany Argus* on the 9th of October, 1832, as an address to the electors of Columbia County. It soon happened that a standard was applied to the ability of the paper, and to its effect



in a canvass that was engaging the vigor of the ablest men, for the editor was obliged to defend Mr. Van Buren from an imputation of self-seeking, by stating that it was not from his pen. This political association, the most powerful in the history of the State, continued, with Mr. Tilden in its counsels, until, after thirty years, he himself came into the leadership of his party.

In 1832 he came to the city of New York to pursue his studies. These were interrupted by ill health; and although there is now no trace left of it, his appearance was such that he was sometimes conscious, in the greeting of his friends, of their surprise at seeing him again. Still, a while at Yale College, and with private instruction in New York, he kept at work in the acquisition of knowledge and the training of his powers. It is one of the qualities of genius that it can work all night. This sort of unremitting labor, pursued under a supreme necessity of physical exercise for his health's sake, and the close direction of his studies in the single line of the law and its cognate branches, rapidly advanced him in his profession. He confined himself to the great questions that arose before him, and never became engaged in a general practice. His studies in history, political economy, and metaphysics, all the more fruitful because they were driven for a purpose in the intervals of professional occupations, expanded in him the broad views, and fixed in him the general principles of science, which impelled him along the special professional path he had chosen. The line he was engaged in as counsel in the cases of great corporations, gave a practical application to his early inclination for financial discussions, and brought his profound study of the financial aspects of political economy up to the solution of actual questions. When he was twelve years old, his grandmother read to him alternately in the Bible and in Jefferson's Correspondence, and upon that foundation he has built.

In his political career he has never sought office, nor held any since they were open to his ambition. The principle that it is the first of social duties for a citizen of a republic to take his fair



allotment of care and trouble in all public affairs, when it lodges in a true and generous heart, excludes the use of political power as a means of self-aggrandizement. He served one year in the State Assembly, as a delegate from the city of New York, in 1846; and was an active member of the Constitutional Convention of 1846, and of that of 1867. In the former he was next to Michael Hoffman on the Committee on Canals and the Financial Obligations of the State, and in the latter was on the Committee on Finance.

In 1866 he was chosen one of the Democratic State Committee, and at the same time took the position of its chairman. He succeeded Dean Richmond who had been chairman since 1850, and to whom Mr. Tilden had been a trusted confidential adviser. It has thus fallen to him to preside at, or to open, many of the most important conventions of that party. His speeches, on these occasions of breaking ground, have been remarkable for the precision and fervor with which he would express the dominant idea of the time, and the grasp he would take at the heart of the questions rising to be political issues. In the constitutional conventions, finances and the canals, the principal financial topic, engaged his attention, and he was successful, in 1846, in shaping the canal policy which has since proved so beneficial.

In his professional career he has engaged not only in cases which required argument in the Courts of Review, upon the principles of law which fitted a case of developed facts; but more eminently in the development of the facts themselves, from complicated sources, in the order of their legal value, so as to comprise the law, complete the case, convince the court and carry the jury. As Judge Hogeboom said of his summing up, on such an occasion, he spoke as if in a trance.

In the year 1855 Azariah C. Flagg received the certificate of election as Comptroller of the City of New York, and his title to the office was contested by his opponent by *quo warranto*. The vote had been so close, that a change in the return in a single election district would alter the result. Upon a fraud inserted here his

opponent proceeded, and proved that the three hundred and sixteen votes counted for Mr. Flagg belonged to him, and that his one hundred and eighty-six votes were all that Mr. Flagg received. He relied on the tally lists, which were on two sheets of paper; the one containing the canvass of the regular tickets was lost, but false results were pretended to have been transferred from it to the sheet containing the canvass of the split tickets, by certain figures, which, added to the votes there shown for him, gave him the three hundred and sixteen. That this was the truth, and that by an error made in the return, the votes had been transposed, was confirmed by the oral evidence of the inspectors, and appeared to be overwhelming. Mr. Tilden, by a logical and mathematical analysis,—shown by tables derived from the tally list that remained, the number of tickets and of candidates, and the aggregate votes,—reconstructed the lost list, and proved conclusively that the return for Mr. Flagg was correct, and that the results pretended to have been transferred from it were arbitrary, false, and necessarily impossible. He won the case for Mr. Flagg on his opening.

In the *Burdell* case, in 1857, which was tried, on the issue of his marriage, before Surrogate Bradford, the circumstantial and positive evidence of respectable witnesses in favor of the marriage was complete. On the theory that a fabricated tissue, however artful, if torn by cross-examination would reveal the truth, he put the one hundred and forty-two witnesses to the test, and developed a series of circumstances which struck the mind of the judge “with irresistible force,” and led to his “entire satisfaction and conviction” that the marriage had never taken place.

In the *Cumberland coal* case in 1858, in Maryland, there is an illustration of his ability to establish a purely legal principle. He sustained the doctrine that a trustee can not become a purchaser of property confided to him for sale, and applied that doctrine to the directors of corporations; fully exhibiting the equitable principles on which such sales are set aside, and the conditions necessary to give them validity.

In the case of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company against the Pennsylvania Coal Company, in 1863, the rights of the canal company to a large increase of toll, on a perpetual contract for coal transportation, depended upon the question of fact, whether as they claimed, by larger boats on an enlarged canal, the transportation had been rendered cheaper. By a calculation that took years of labor, brought in with its just weight every statistic and circumstance of canal navigation, and by the application of the law of average, Mr. Tilden established the fact against the canal company, and against the popular opinion; and settled the fundamental economic principles of canal navigation for the country.

In addition to many such cases, he has, since 1855, been extensively connected with the railroad enterprises of the country, particularly of the West. Perhaps more than half of those enterprises, north of the Ohio, between the Hudson and the Missouri, have stood to him in the relation of clientage. The general misfortunes, between 1855 and 1860, which brought insolvency upon so many of these railroads, and placed in peril and confusion the interests of people of all conditions, who were their creditors and contractors, bondholders and stockholders, called for some plan of relief. It was here that his legal knowledge, financial skill, laborious industry, weight of character and personal influence were called into action, and resulted in a plan of reorganization which protected equitably the rights of all parties, in many cases saved tiresome and wasting litigation, was generally adopted, and has resulted in a condition of railroad prosperity as eminent as the depression was severe. His relations with these companies and the individuals controlling them, have continued, and his thorough comprehension of their history and requirements, his practical energy and decision, have elevated him to the mastery of the questions that arise in the organization, administration, and finances of canals as well as railroads, so that their prosperity can not be separated from his influence upon them.

If there were space to expand these outlines into full illustra-

tions, it would justify the estimate placed upon his character, and the indication of the elements of his success. He has that rare equipoise between courage and judgment, which saves him from being rash in the hour of reflection, and from indecision at the moment of action. There is a mean between the theoretical, which penetrates ultimate causes and comprehends remote influences, and the practical, which looks ahead at the immediate result and the impediments. From that stand-point, the man who can get there, tests and rectifies theories, weighs on fundamental principles means and ends, and finishes by concentrating the power of all causes toward the accomplishment of a single object. The theorist lacks result, and the practical man lacks power; but the man who is alive to the duty of to-day, and who has spent his time in settling principles, and correcting them by daily application to those ends which are the object of an active and eminent life, illustrates the elements of success.

These elements exist in Mr. Tilden in two forms. He has the power of analysis, and the power of combination. The power of analysis is rare; in most men it arises when they find themselves in emergencies, where they are compelled to think and to decide. It is the power to investigate, with intricate research, the mass of facts of a case which meets one like a chaos, and out of it to pluck up the hinging facts, and swing them in their logical order: it is the persistence in holding a complex mass of ideas, facts, principles, and illustrations under the mental lens, until distinct and accurate views appear, and at the focus rises the image to be realized. Then comes into play the power of combination and organization, which is the rarer power, and without which the power of analysis is like an ungathered harvest. It is the power to comprehend the situation, to devise the expedient, to seize the opportunity, to combine men and to carry their convictions. Mr. Van Buren was an example of this power; and even in his day, and in the councils of the Regency, Mr. Tilden stood among them, not without purpose and not without honor; so that Michael Hoff-



man said of him, "that young man will have his way, for he has a plan."

It need hardly be added of such a man that, within his range, he reads every thing. He does not rest upon his acquisitions as a sufficient capital, but keeps in advance on the fresh fields of thought; and the library with which he surrounds himself, rich in all branches, is full on his favorite topics of political economy and finance.

If you were to meet him, you would find a man full of convictions and of great gentleness, fond of abstruse questions, quick in his appreciation of literature and art, jealous of the dignity of his profession, and with a candor and fairness which leaves him no opponents. His penetration into the merits of a case, and his grasp of the justice of it, are such, that it is the characteristic of his business that he settles controversies, or rather, prevents them, by leading the parties away from their differences to the point where they can agree, and which they all see to be right. It is because he gains their confidence at the outset. You could not leave him without your thoughts, perhaps your feelings lingering upon him.

In a social discussion, he is full of enthusiasm and of grace. You watch for the source of the spell which holds you, and would find it in the fullness of his human nature, were it not in the intellectual fascination of a man who thoroughly understands his subject, and is in earnest about making you believe it. He will in an argument gather up the points of the controversy, or analyze and balance an array of facts, from clear statement rise into eloquence, and with a rigorous accuracy that leaves not a point to be contested, reach his conclusion and clinch it, with his hearers in the silent consciousness which follows an argument which was not made to be answered.

In public life, his part would be that of a statesman. He would determine the principles and plan, rather than execute the details of an administrative office. He would direct the counsels of a




political party, rather than encounter the turbulence of its contests. But with his native largeness of mind; with an experience that measures the material interests of all classes of men in all their modes of advancement; with a power to delve among and array facts, and upon them to erect a philosophic basis from which to press on to action; with a logical method, an utter familiarity and a fearless consciousness of power in handling great questions, his place would be found at great crises, and under the burden of the insoluble problems of a parliamentary debate. At such a moment, as amid the financial difficulties and crude remedies which have followed the rebellion, he would be the man to contrive the scheme which comprehended every determining fact, and overcame every possible objection; which was sound in principle and efficient in practice, and by his reasoning and advocacy to bring order upon what was formless and void, and, because he was right, to gain the convictions of men and achieve great results for his country.

During the most active period of his life, the party to which he belongs has held too loosely the reins of its power, so that he has deserved well of his country, rather than had a career. It will be a brilliant epoch in the history of our nation, when the ideas which are to shape its policy and advance its destiny emerge into dominance, and, with its representative men foremost, the party shall resume its power.



## JOHN B. GOUGH.

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OHN B. GOUGH was born on the 22d of August, 1817, at Sandgate, in the county of Kent, England—a romantic little watering-place frequently resorted to by many of the English gentry. His father was a soldier for twenty-five years, and served in the Fortieth and famous Fifty-second Regiments of Light Infantry, receiving at last a pension of £20 per year.

His mother was an intelligent, pure-minded, and affectionate lady, whose very being was interwoven with her son, who as ardently returned her love. From her he received a rudimentary education, which was further promoted by attendance at the village-school. Soon after the age of ten, however, he left school, and was never afterwards permitted the advantages of scholastic instruction.

In the year 1829, at the age of twelve years, young Gough came to America, and on the 3d of August for the first time beheld New York City, which was to him a New World, teeming with strange sights, and the commencement of a new era in his eventful life. After residing about two months in the city, he went to a farm in Oneida county, and there remained two years busied in agricultural pursuits; then again returned to New York, with but fifty cents in his pocket, and a small trunk containing all the worldly goods he possessed.

Mr. Gough, in speaking of this period of his youthful career, in his autobiography, says:—

“As I stood at the foot of Cortlandt Street after I left the boat, hundreds of people passed by regardless of me, and I felt desolate indeed. But the impressions and instructions received from my beloved mother, afforded me some rays of consolation which glimmered through the gloom. Whilst musing on my sad fortune, the text of Scripture, ‘Trust in the Lord,’ etc., came into my mind and gave me encouragement. So,

shouldering my trunk. I entered the great city, a boy but fourteen years of age, a stranger among a strange people, with no one to guide me, none to advise me, and not a single soul to love or be loved by.

Meeting with the venerable Mr. Dando, I was engaged by him as errand-boy, and also to learn the book-binding business, at \$3.25 per week, boarding myself, etc."

The early life and struggles of the subject of this notice cannot be better told, perhaps, than by himself, in the work before quoted from, so we shall continue a few brief extracts:—

"After the death of my mother, I scraped together all I could and went to visit the family with whom I left England; but after remaining with them two months, I found my absence would not be regretted, and again left for New York. While boarding on Grand Street, I laid the foundation of future sorrows, for there I became acquainted with dissipated young men, to whom my talents made me welcome; and thrown upon the world with a tarnished reputation, my situation was far worse than it had hitherto been, and as my habit for strong drink was becoming confirmed, my circumstances began to be desperate indeed. All my efforts to obtain work were in vain, and when one meal was ended, I did not know where to obtain another."

At length, however, he determined to reform, and not continue a blighted outcast from society. At this time, he says:—

"Scarcely a hope remained for me of ever becoming that which I once was, but having promised to sign the pledge, I determined not to break my word. With palsied hand I grasped the pen and signed the total-abstinence pledge."

His condition became speedily much improved, his appearance more respectable, and soon after this it was whispered that he had some talents for public speaking. His first address from a pulpit occupied fifteen or twenty minutes, and was listened to very attentively. Unfortunately, again a glass of brandy was offered to him, and again he fell. One rash, inconsiderate act undid the work of months, and well-nigh blasted every future hope.

Still, with a resolve creditable alike to his head and heart, he determined to loose himself from the fetters of strong drink, and continued to give lectures on temperance, though with little or sometimes no remuneration. On one occasion, when he had been speaking for more than two hours, a vote of thanks was proposed for the lecture, though he had not money enough to pay his car-fare home.

Mr. Gough's first lecture in Boston was in a hall under the museum on Tremont Street. The room was about half filled. Says Mr. Gough: "After I had engaged to speak in Boston, I felt half inclined to run away, when I thought it was the modern Athens of America. But I made out to get through the ordeal."

Since that time he has delivered three hundred and twenty-one lectures in Boston, besides addresses to children, and always to crowded houses. And who now in the city does not remember the lecturer Gough, the inimitable Gough, who with mimicry that none can equal, convulsed the audience one moment with weeping, the next with laughter. Who among the tens of thousands to-day who have heard his pleadings with the inebriated in Tremont Temple and elsewhere, can forget his magical presence and impassioned eloquence? Who can forget his charmingly pathetic stories? Who does not remember a "London Fog," "Peculiar People," "Circumstances," etc.?

In 1853 Mr. Gough was invited to Great Britain to commence a new and interesting field of labor. As in Boston, so now in the greatest metropolis of the Old World, he hesitated and feared the criticisms of a London audience. "I cannot argue," he says; "I am no logician, have no education." But the venerable Dr. Beecher said, "Go, Mr. Gough, and talk to the people, and I will pray for you."

On the 30th of July, 1853, he arrived in England, and the first words that greeted his ears were those of friends and admirers who bade him "welcome to England." At Surrey Gardens he lectured to an audience of seventeen thousand persons, the largest he ever addressed. It was a proud day for the village of Sandgate, when they beheld again their own village-boy, grown to the stature of a man, and one of the most attractive speakers in his field of labor, in the New or Old World.

In the year 1854 Mr. Gough was employed constantly in addressing the people in the principal towns and cities of England and Scotland. Exeter Hall was often crowded with an audience of



cultivated and Christian people, who came, attracted by the fame of the speaker, to listen and learn, rather than to condemn; for logic and criticism were unthought of in the interest which ever attended his earnest, thrilling, heart-felt talk. His style was peculiarly his own, and its efficacy has been avouched over and over again.

In England the success of the speaker was complete, his triumph in behalf of temperance wonderful. After two years of hard labor, Mr. Gough returned home to the "Old Bay State," but before leaving, promised to revisit England at some future day. In 1857 this promise was fulfilled, and during a protracted stay in England and on the continent, he delivered six hundred and five lectures, and traveled 40,217 miles.

In 1860 Mr. Gough again embarked for his home in the United States, carrying with him the assurance of a noble work performed, and many loving testimonials and heart-felt "God bless you's," from appreciative friends who regretted his adieu to the Old World.

It were impossible to determine the measure of good accomplished by this devoted champion of temperance. His work has been earnest and unremitting; his triumph has been glorious, and his reward will be enduring. With his compassion for the inebriate, he has inherited a love for the widow and the orphan, and has ever extended a helping hand to the afflicted. Many will call him blessed, for many have received bounteous blessings from his hands.

He possesses a beautiful home near Worcester, Massachusetts, where, with all the surroundings of comfort and elegance, he lives in the enjoyment of the pleasing consciousness of having done much good, and the certainty of being appreciated by his fellow-men.





*Ch. Garrison*

## C. K. GARRISON.



HE subject of this biographical notice, Cornelius K. Garrison, was born in the neighborhood of West Point on the Hudson, on March 1st, 1809. His forefathers were among the earliest settlers of New Amsterdam, and were of that colony of worthy Hollanders, whose brain and muscle inaugurated the pioneer efforts which have resulted in the unequaled development of this country. His ancestors—the Garrisons and Coverts on his father's side, and the Kingslands and Schuylers on his mother's—were old Knickerbocker families of whose blood any descendant might be proud.

During the childhood of Cornelius, his father, Oliver Garrison, by some misadventure, lost all his fortune, he having been previously a large capitalist, consequently the son was thrown on his own resources at an early age. Undaunted by the misfortune of his father, he speedily resolved to take care of himself; and it is here in this readiness to appreciate a necessity, and determination to surmount difficulty, that we discover in the youth the germs of a will and an energy that have served the man so well in after life.

During the business season, he was employed in the carrying trade on the river, and thus passed three years of his life from his thirteenth to his sixteenth year. In the meantime, fully aware of the great value of education, he diligently applied himself to study whenever occasion presented, and particularly during the winter months when the navigation of the river was closed.

At the age of sixteen, in compliance with his mother's earnest wish, he went to New York for the purpose of studying architecture, and here during three years' of application to that particular

branch, he acquired valuable information, which served him well in the time immediately following.

At the expiration of the three years in New York, he removed to Canada, where he remained five years or more, actively engaged in planning and erecting buildings, constructing steamboats on the Lakes, and otherwise turning his architectural knowledge to good account. While in Canada, he made the acquaintance of, and subsequently married, a lady from Buffalo, New York. While there, also, he acquired an enviable reputation for reliable, clear-headed business sagacity, evidenced by the Upper Canada Company giving to him the general supervision of its affairs in Canada. This position, valuable as it was, considering the vast wealth and power of the company, was soon renounced by Mr. Garrison, on account of the then threatening aspect of affairs between England and the United States, arising from border difficulties.

On leaving Canada, Mr. Garrison returned to the States, and located in the Southwest, where he entered largely in his business, and was also interested in other enterprises connected with the navigation of the Mississippi. On the discovery of gold in California, he went to Panama and established a banking house, which proved his most successful undertaking thus far. In 1852, he visited New York, with the view of establishing a branch bank, but receiving at this time a favorable offer from the Nicaragua Steamship Line, to take the San Francisco agency of their business, he accepted the position and set out immediately for California.

The great work which he accomplished during a seven years' stay in California, is one which to relate would necessitate a history almost in detail of the city of San Francisco itself during that period. He reached the city on the steamer *Sierra Nevada*, in the latter part of March, 1853. As agent of this steamship line, he received a salary at the rate of \$60,000 per annum, and had about \$25,000 additional as representative of sundry Insurance companies. His first efforts were directed to the reformation of the Nicaragua Steamship Line, whose business was rapidly declining under in-



competent management and the odium attending the terrible disasters of the *Independence* and *S. S. Lewis*. With characteristic energy, and admirable comprehension, difficulties that threatened to engulf his company in financial ruin, were speedily mastered, and his wonderful administrative ability, inspiring life and efficiency in every department of the service, restored almost magical prosperity to the enterprise, and placed it in powerful competition with the strongest lines on the Pacific coast.

Fame of course attended this work. Its master spirit found himself suddenly a public favorite, and this appreciation found expression in his being elected Mayor of San Francisco in six months after his arrival. This honor came wholly unsolicited by Mr. Garrison, who rather preferred the pursuit of his great business enterprises, to any political preferment. Such a graceful compliment, however, by the citizens of San Francisco to one almost a stranger among them could not be declined, although Mr. Garrison entered upon his new duties with many misgivings respecting his capability, heightened no doubt by the knowledge of the ability and success of his immediate predecessors in office. A work styled "Representative Men of the Pacific," from which we have gathered the foregoing data, thus speaks of Mr. Garrison's advent and efficiency in the mayoralty: "It was soon evident that the same sound judgment and executive talent that could grasp and prosperously control steamship lines and banking institutions, could with equal facility administer the affairs of a community. His inaugural address, delivered in October, 1853, to the two branches of the Common Council, was a model of plain, unpretending, common sense, abounding in practical suggestions, going straight to the point, and quite devoid of flourish or attempt at oratorical display. He acknowledged the weight of the responsibility, and pledged himself to devote his best energies to the interests of the city. A month later he submitted a message, which may challenge any paper of the kind, in sound business ideas and financial propositions. It contained the germs of what became, years afterwards, the rally-

ing cries of reform in the administration of the city government. The first outspoken denunciation in any official document, of the disgraceful public gambling then prevalent in the many saloons of San Francisco, and the first rebuke of Sunday theatricals, with a recommendation for ordinances for their suppression, are found in this message. And it was not merely a verbal protest against the evils described. Mr. Garrison never ceased to wage war against them until the desired reforms were completely effected. The crime of a public gaming hell has never blackened the fame of San Francisco since Mayor Garrison's term. For this act alone he is entitled to the gratitude of all who respect morality, decency, and good order. The first proposal of an Industrial School for juvenile delinquents, who should thus be separated from contact with the hardened criminals in the cells of the city prison; the earliest suggestions of a tariff of hack fares for the protection of strangers from extortion; the taxation of non-resident capital; the building of substantial, well-ventilated school houses in place of the shanties then used in various districts—these, among other proposals equally sensible and at that time novel, were embodied in the message."

That Mr. Garrison's efforts were potent in enhancing the prosperity and good government of San Francisco no one can gainsay. In the way of education he accomplished much. When the money required for the construction of school houses was called for, and could not be obtained at proper quarters, he advanced it from his private means. He organized the first African school in San Francisco, believing that as the negroes were destined, at some future day, to enjoy the rights of citizenship, it was proper to prepare them therefor by education.

At this time, apart from his other and engrossing duties, he never lost sight of two favorite schemes in his mind. The one a steamship line to China and Australia, and the other the exploration of a route for the Pacific Railroad. He urged immediate action on these subjects whenever occasion offered. He was the first subscriber to a Telegraph line across the *Sierras* to demonstrate the practicability

of overland telegraphic communication between San Francisco and New York.

During his stay in California there were few charitable enterprises to which he was not a ready and liberal contributor. One notable instance of this characteristic generosity is recorded in his serving the public gratuitously during his whole term as Mayor; a check drawn for the entire amount of his salary having been donated and divided equally by him among the Roman Catholic and Protestant Orphan Asylums. Nor were these benevolent dispensations confined to San Francisco or California. Hundreds of destitute people at Panama were relieved at his personal expense, and it was he who, in September, 1853, was foremost in a movement for aiding the sufferers from yellow fever in New Orleans, and contributed of his private means unsparingly to that end. His services in this matter were warmly appreciated by the public, and the Germans of San Francisco, in a special meeting, passed him a vote of thanks for his effective aid in the transmission of funds and otherwise.

After an eventful career in California, during which the City of San Francisco experienced, under his able administration and by his enlightened coöperation in great works of public improvement, of moral, social, and educational advancement, a stimulus and impulsion in the way of prosperity never before realized. Mr. Garrison returned to New York City in the year 1859. Here he became at once a bold and successful financier, interested in great commercial enterprises, and taking a principal part in some of the heaviest transactions of the times. He is now one of the leading Steamship proprietors in the United States. He assisted the Government in multitudes of ways, during the late war, rendering incalculable service by the aid of his steamship service. When the Union cause was in sorest need, and capital was hesitating, Mr. Garrison fitted out, principally by his own exertions and responsibility, what was known as *Butler's Ship-Island Expedition*. This patriotic endeavor was formally acknowledged by President Lincoln, Secretary Seward, Mr. Sumner and other leading members of Congress.

His visit to the metropolis of the Pacific, one of the earliest over the railroad across the continent, after an absence of ten years, was the occasion of an enthusiastic ovation, tendered in the way of heartfelt congratulations and kind wishes by his many friends who welcomed his return. A short time prior to his departure from San Francisco, he received the following communication, signed by the most prominent professional and business men of the city :

SAN FRANCISCO, *August 10th, 1869.*

HON. C. K. GARRISON :

DEAR SIR.—In token of the very great regard we entertain for you, both on account of your public services and private benefices to the citizens of San Francisco, we, your old friends and associates, beg to ask your acceptance of a farewell dinner, to be given at the *Maison Dorée*, on Monday evening, August 16th, at seven o'clock. (Here follow some thirty or more signatures.)

At the elegant and sumptuous banquet which followed the acceptance of this invitation, Hon. Ogden Hoffman, United States District Judge, Governor Haight, and Hon. Frank McCoppin, Mayor of the city, were present as invited guests. Dr. A. J. Bowie presided, and made the following address :

GENTLEMEN : This banquet to-night, to the Hon. C. K. Garrison, was prompted by a desire on the part of Mr. Garrison's friends to convey to him first, their full recognition of the great services he had rendered to this community, in behalf of immigration to our city and State, but more especially because of his personal endearment to the early surviving settlers and residents of the City of San Francisco. We can scarcely hope, however much we may desire it, that Mr. Garrison will again venture to encounter the toil of another visit to our city, which we know he loves so well, and to whose development and growth he has contributed so largely ; and therefore, at one and the same moment, we proclaim our pleasure at securing him, and our regret at parting, by bidding him farewell.



To which Mr. Garrison replied as follows:

GENTLEMEN: I am filled with the greatest emotion at this most unexpected and flattering entertainment on the part of my old friends. If I had required any incentive beyond what had been supplied by my past relations with California, this spectacle of so much worth and intelligence would urge me still further in hope and effort to develop the interests of this mighty country. Gentlemen, my heart is too full of gratitude for this splendid ovation to permit me to do aught else but beg you will accept the poverty of my language to express my full feelings of gratitude.

Messrs. Judge Delos Lake, Judge Lyons, Gen. E. D. Keys, W. E. Ralston, Charles E. McLane, Hall McAllister, Joseph P. Hoyer, J. G. Eastland, and others followed in addresses equally appropriate for the occasion.

Mr. Garrison, as before remarked, is now a resident of New York City, and largely identified with its commercial prosperity. He is recognised by his co-workers in great business enterprises, as well as by all who know him, as a man of extraordinary energy, keen foresight, and a perseverance that appreciates the word *difficulty* as a mere notice of the necessity of exertion. Warm in friendship, tolerant and conservative in opinion, of fine social qualities and conversational powers, and a remarkable force of character—with ample means and a willingness to do good in future as in the past, joined to an enlightened and progressive estimation of duty, C. K. Garrison is a citizen who would honor any community.





## ARTHUR F. WILLMARTH.

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ARTHUR F. WILLMARTH, Vice-President of the Home Insurance Company of New York, President of the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company, and President of the American Atlantic Cable Telegraph Company, embodies in his character and business career those predominant traits of our self-made men which have created the history of the United States. Untiring industry, indomitable pluck, steady patience in adversity, and unswerving integrity, allied to excellent natural abilities, have been the essential elements of a hard-won and well-merited success.

Although now somewhat more than fifty years of age, Mr. Willmarth is a young-looking man, a temperate and regular life having preserved his original vigor unimpaired. Somewhat above the middle height, slender, and well-proportioned, with a well-knit and muscular development, he has an unusual capacity for continued exertion. His complexion is dark, his hair and eyes black, the latter not large but keen and penetrating, with a pleasant expression, and ready to light up at any time with fun or humor.

Few men have so well preserved through all the wear and tear of business pursuits the buoyant freshness of earlier days; and his manner, though methodically steady and exact, is uniformly and genuinely courteous to high and low alike. This, too, has been no unimportant element of his popularity and success.

Like so many other of our prominent men, Mr. Willmarth was born in the Old Bay State, and among the far-famed Berkshire Hills—a rough region, from which it was necessary to “strike out” in order to find anything of a field for extended activity. His father was a farmer, and his own opportunities for early mental

training were in no respect superior to those of other Yankee country-boys. The farm with its work, and the common schools of the day, such as they were, occupied his energies until his fifteenth year, when he entered as a clerk a calico-printing establishment owned by two of his uncles at North Adams, Massachusetts. Here he worked one year for his board only, but then wealth seemed to dawn on him, for he received, the year succeeding, no less a sum than fifty dollars in addition. The next year his steady, good conduct was rewarded by a further advance to eighty dollars, and his fourth year was spent in affluence on one hundred and fifty.

Time passed rapidly, even in a calico printery, and a day of triumph was in store, for in his twenty-second year Mr. Willmarth was made a partner in the firm whose interests he had served so faithfully. The business of the concern was very successful and grew rapidly, until finally it reached an aggregate of from two to three millions of dollars annually—a large business for those days, and the profits were all that could be desired. The young manufacturer laid aside a little property, and the future looked as smiling as possible. Here, also, began Mr. Willmarth's acquaintance with the insurance business and his experience as an underwriter; for, shortly after becoming a partner in the house, he accepted the local agency of the *Ætna Insurance Company*, of Hartford, Connecticut, which he retained until 1843. Manufacturing, like all other business pursuits in America, is not without its perils, and a dark hour was coming. The great financial convulsion of 1846, under which all our commercial interests were so terribly prostrated, found its way to North Adams, and the calico-printing firm went down before it. Everything was swept away, including the private fortunes of all the partners.

In this connection there are two facts worthy of mark, not only as indicating the character of the man, but as adding to the worth of his example. Not only did the largest creditors of the firm, those who lost most heavily by its failure, express their entire satisfaction with his ability and integrity in its management, but they

remained, and to this day continue the staunch friends and unfailing "references" of Mr. Willmarth. Moreover, in the very hour of the crash, when the hard-earned results of long years of thought and toil were being snatched from him by one day of disaster, the young manufacturer's greatest anxiety was not for himself, but for the feeble, the poor, the helpless, who had been dependent for their daily bread upon the work afforded them by the manufactory. For himself he had no fear. All the future was his, and he felt within him the courage and ability to meet it; but these two or three hundred operatives he knew very well were not supplied with the same resources, and his first and foremost care was to see that they at least were paid in full.

Everything was swept away, but he met his reverses with cheerful courage, and refused to borrow or run in debt. During many months that followed, there seemed nothing open but a clerkship on a small salary, but rigid economy made that sufficient for the time. There had, however, been something in the method and ability with which he had transacted the business of his insurance agency that had attracted the attention of the *Ætna Company*, and they now offered him their General Agency, a highly-important and responsible position, but with a salary by no means commensurate. This he accepted, entering upon his duties on the first day of January, 1850. His laurels as an underwriter came to him rapidly, for at the end of the first year he was made assistant secretary, and in 1852, he transferred his services to the *Old Hartford Insurance Company* as full secretary. Here, also, his peculiar capacity made itself quickly manifest and secured him the unbounded confidence of his associates.

In the winter of 1852-3, the organization of the *Home Insurance Company* was begun in New York, and the marked success of the *Hartford Companies* naturally led capitalists to look in that direction for what may fairly be termed "professional skill." Such men as Mr. Willmarth could not be overlooked, and he was invited to come to New York and aid in the foundation of the new enter-



prise. He came in April, 1853, and on the thirteenth of the month the Home Insurance Company issued its first "policy." At the end of two years he was chosen secretary, and in 1856 he was made vice-president, a position which he has filled to the present day.

Eighteen years, therefore, very nearly, Mr. Willmarth has been an executive officer of one of the most widely-known and successful insurance corporations in the United States, if not in the world. To the minds of some, indeed of very many, this fact would convey a sufficiently comprehensive meaning; but the greater number know very little of the necessary qualifications of a controlling underwriter. It is not generally understood, outside of strictly financial circles, that the successful management of a large insurance business requires more knowledge of human nature and a keener intuitive perception of character than even banking; that it necessarily involves a practical acquaintance with a wide range of both statute and common law application, and that it demands general and accurate information concerning the nature, peculiarities, value, and marked availability of every description of movable property.

That this is not an overstrained estimate of the qualifications of that highly-honorable class of men, the leading underwriters of the United States, our business community will gladly testify, and among this class Mr. Willmarth holds an unquestionable place in the foremost rank. It is to be doubted if the city contains his superior. He is especially noted for the swift precision with which his mind performs its unanalyzed processes. There is no "guess-work," no carelessness, no mistake, but the fully-formed and clearly-stated judgment of any given case seems to follow instantaneously upon a correct understanding of the facts, and it is rare indeed that a subsequent examination calls for a revision or reversal of his decision.

Valuable as is this faculty, it is not more a natural gift than the legitimate and sure result of habitual and conscientious care in the



discharge of the minutest duty, producing in time a marvelous perfection of especial mental training.

During these latter years, in spite of the exacting nature of his official duties, Mr. Willmarth has found time to identify himself with other enterprises of no small importance.

In 1866, having been for a long time impressed with the need for an independent national telegraphic combination in opposition to the existing monopoly, he joined with other gentlemen in the formation of the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company, and was at once chosen its president. The history of the enterprise has been one of continued struggle against seemingly overwhelming difficulties, but all have been met and vanquished with unyielding courage, and the lines and connections of the Company now reach most of the important business points of the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. A similar history appertains to the parallel effort to establish a distinctively American ocean telegraph-cable between the United States and Europe, and less determined men would long ago have given it up in despair. Mr. Willmarth became a director of the American Atlantic Cable Telegraph Company in 1867, and its president in 1870, and at the present time the prospect for speedy success seems better than ever before.

The genial courtesy of Mr. Willmarth's manner does not at all interfere with a most unyielding firmness and a positive incapacity for being driven one inch from any position which he deems right or wise. His habits and tastes are simple and refined. Though exceedingly fond of fast horses, and not only of seeing them go, but of holding the reins over them, his best horse has never carried him to a race-course. The lesson of his career may be accepted as thoroughly hearty, wholesome, manly, and worthy of imitation by the young men of America.







*J. H. Vanderbilt*

## WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT.

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WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT is the eldest son of the distinguished Commodore Vanderbilt. He was born May 8th, 1821, at New Brunswick, in the State of New Jersey. He early exhibited the energy, sagacity, and hopeful industry which have since made for him so successful a career.

He was educated at Columbia College Grammar School where he was thoroughly grounded in all the studies necessary for the prosecution of business. But though satisfactorily performing his school duties his tastes were more for active than scholastic pursuits. His father's example was to his youthful mind a perpetual incentive to strike out for himself, and win the rewards of successful exertion.

At the age of eighteen he entered the house of Drew, Robinson, & Co., and began his business life. From that time to the present few men have been more persistently and intelligently industrious.

He quickly won the confidence of the firm, then known as one of the ablest and strongest in the street, and so highly did they appreciate his value that at the end of two years, notwithstanding his youth, they discussed the propriety of taking him into partnership. Rapid growth and constant application had begun to tell upon Mr. Vanderbilt's constitution, and he resolved to bend his energies to practical farming.

With characteristic promptness and determination the decision was no sooner made than he entered at once upon his new duties. An unimproved farm, no previous education or experience for the vocation, a profession which requires patience, sagacity, economy, and untiring labor,—few men at the early age of twenty-one would



have had the courage to leave a banker's desk to grapple seriously with the responsibilities and difficulties of the undertaking. But his motto has always been, never to attempt what he could not do, and never to fail when work would win.

The sun found him in the fields and left him there. Among the first to work and the last to leave, he directed the whole, and yet permitted none to do more than himself. The first seventy-five acres subdued and cultivated, he extended his labors until in a few years he had three hundred and fifty acres in the best managed and most profitable farm on Staten Island. The wastes and barrens were transformed into a garden, and yielded to the owner a large annual income. Qualities so marked and results so manifest could not fail to impress the community.

The Staten Island Railroad Company, whose existence was of the utmost importance to the development of the Island, was overwhelmed with debts and embarrassments. By the unanimous suggestion of all parties interested, Mr. Vanderbilt was appointed receiver of the company. Here he first gave promise of the talent which has made him one of the first railroad men of the continent.

In two years he had paid off the claims against the Staten Island Company, connected it with New York by an independent ferry, and placed it upon a secure and permanent financial basis ; and the grateful stockholders pressed upon him the presidency of the road. He continued to administer successfully the affairs of the Company, until called away by fraternal love and duty. His brother George had gone abroad for his health, and William resigned his position and went to Europe to furnish the care and attention which none but a brother could bestow. But all that loving thoughtfulness could do proved unavailing, and William returned to enter again upon his busy career. In 1864 he was elected vice-president of the New York and Harlem Railroad Company, and the following year of the Hudson River Railroad Company. From this time forward his life has been part of the railway history of the country. At once the executive officer, confidant, and son of the Commo-

dore, he has been the efficient and able assistant through whom the far-reaching and comprehensive plans of that master mind have been carried into quick and successful execution. Familiarizing himself with every detail and personally supervising every department, he stopped the leaks, reduced the expenditures, and increased the business of these roads, until their progress is unequaled by any similar enterprises in the Republic.

The Harlem Road, which was bankrupt when the Vanderbilts became its owners, has become one of the best equipped and best paying railroads in the State.

The Hudson River Railroad has trebled in value since Mr. Vanderbilt assumed its management.

The Commodore, having secured a controlling interest in the New York Central Railroad, resolved that for convenience in the transaction of business, and facility in meeting competition, the line from New York to Buffalo should be continuous. In 1869, he consolidated the Central with the Hudson River Company, creating a corporation of unrivaled wealth and power. This magnificent road, with ninety millions of dollars of capital, with seven hundred miles of double-track in its main lines and its branches—doing a business which earns, gross, twenty-three millions a year—running through the heart of the first State in the Union, and affecting every enterprise and interest throughout the Commonwealth—requires for its management faculties of the highest order. In full appreciation of and confidence in his ability, Mr. Vanderbilt was named, in the articles of consolidation, its vice-president and executive officer.

Mr. Vanderbilt was married in the year 1841 to Miss Kissam, of New York, a lady of more than ordinary personal attractions, with rare qualities of heart and head, a model wife and mother. They have eight children, of whom the eldest, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., is now Treasurer of the Harlem Railroad, and following worthily in the footsteps of his grandfather and father; and their second son, William K., a young man of great promise, having finished his studies at Geneva, Switzerland, has already entered

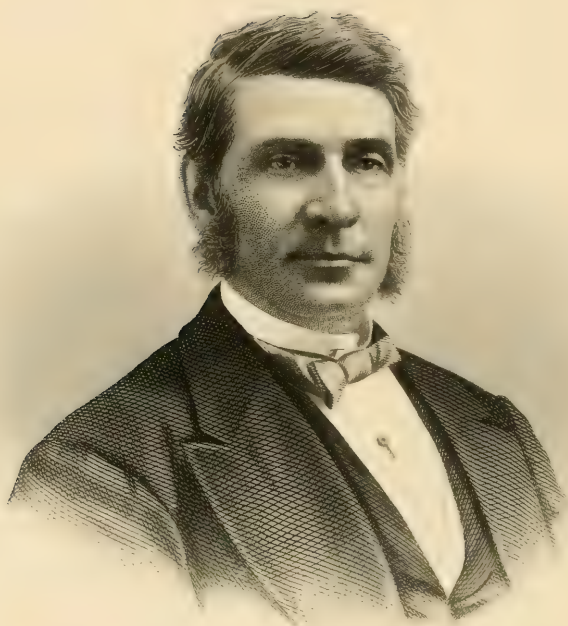
upon and is satisfactorily discharging the duties of an important position in the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company.

The absorbing cares and many activities of later years have not affected Mr. Vanderbilt's love for agriculture. When he began to interest himself in railroads, he had brought his farm to a condition where it no longer required his personal labor, but he has never ceased to manage it, and has always remained, practically as well as theoretically, a farmer. It is there he goes for recreation and change of work, and the knowledge of the laws of demand and supply governing the trade of the country, which his experience and observations have given him while in this pursuit, has been of incalculable benefit in enabling him to master the great question of transportation East and West.

The magnitude of his responsibilities and the calls upon his time would seem sufficient to occupy all his thoughts, but he has neglected no opportunity for culture in the nobler realms of study. In the three visits which he has made to the Old World, he has improved by close observation of its masterpieces a natural taste for art, and in its gratification he finds the highest pleasure. He has proved a discriminating and liberal patron of home talent, and the works in his possession attest his judgment and taste.

He is now in the prime of life, in full health and vigor, and in a position of influence and power which mark out for him a future of extraordinary promise. A genial gentleman, liberal in his charities, generous in his hospitality, popular with all classes of people, and surrounded by hosts of friends—should his life and health be spared, there is nothing within the scope of his ambition to which he may not reasonably aspire.






*A. Barnes*



## ALFRED S. BARNES.

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HE outlines of history, like the outlines of a map, convey to the mind but general and vague impressions. They are instructive and valuable in the narration and philosophy of events; they impress us with the great onward movement of which we form a part: but it is the elements only which address themselves to our individuality, to our more perfect apprehension, and to our warmer sympathies. Biographies are these elements of history.

When we witness the wonderful results of steam, we involuntarily ask ourselves, to whom is the world indebted for this new application of power? When we pass from ocean to ocean, over the iron bands which now encircle the earth, we intuitively desire to know who originated the railroad; and when we hold daily converse with distant continents over wires constructed by the hand of man, we are curious to learn who discovered the hidden law of nature which accomplishes these great results. History, therefore, is incomplete, without biography.

The desire of the public to know something of those who have contributed to the great developments of the present age is, therefore, but natural and philosophical; and it is to gratify, in some measure, this desire, that the present volume is published.

There is, perhaps, no department of enterprise and industry which has been more marked in its development, within the past thirty years, than that of the publication of School-Books. Formerly, a little store, stocked with a few spelling-books, a few arithmetics, and an assortment of readers, was the exponent both of general intelligence and of trade. Now, a respectable book-establish-

ment embraces a list of several hundred works on literature and science—elementary and profound treatises on all subjects of knowledge—printing presses, in large numbers, impelled by steam—and workmen of all grades—and from such an establishment the public is supplied daily with thousands of volumes, which are distributed through the channels of trade not only over a continent but throughout the whole world.

The firm of A. S. Barnes & Co. is a leading house of this class. It sprang into existence, about thirty years ago, under the guidance of its now senior partner, Alfred S. Barnes. It has been directed mainly, through its entire growth and development, by his energy and wisdom, aided largely, it is true, by the advice and labors of others. A brief notice of such a person and of such an establishment, is a leaf in history which ought certainly to be written.

The parents of Mr. Barnes were of New England origin. The father, Eli Barnes, was a native of Southington, in Hartford County, Connecticut. He was a farmer in early life. At a later period, he became a merchant, and removed to New Haven, where he died in 1827, leaving a widow and five children. The mother was a native of New Haven County, and before her marriage bore the name of Morris. She was a daughter of pious parents, and a worthy member of a godly race. In her widowhood she was not alone. She trusted in pious confidence to Him who hears the prayers of the afflicted and pours the oil of gladness into sorrowing hearts. Her labors were crowned by the highest rewards. Her family grew up under her care and under the influence of her pure and earnest life. She impressed upon them the convictions of a religious mind, and that life had duties which must be done; and these convictions not only guarded them from evil, but conducted them to honorable success.

The subject of this notice was the second son of this family, and was born at New Haven, January 28, 1817. At the age of eleven years, he was placed under the care of his uncle, in the city of Hartford. Here he enjoyed the advantages of attending school

during the winter, and of laboring on a farm during the summer season. Thus manual labor and intellectual discipline were combined in forming habits of industry, and laying the foundations of future usefulness.

At the age of sixteen he was placed as a clerk in the bookstore of D. F. Robinson of Hartford, then one of the leading publishing houses of the country. At this time his professional education was begun. He was received with cordiality into the family of Mr. Robinson, where the influences of a Christian home, and the kind solicitude of an able and an accomplished lady developed the early impressions which a pious mother had inspired.

In the year 1835, the publishing house of D. F. Robinson & Co., was removed to New York. Here Mr. Barnes completed his clerkship, and caught the first glimpses of that extensive business which is carried on by leading houses at the centers of trade and commerce.

Soon after the completion of his clerkship he received, from a friend, a letter of introduction to Professor Charles Davies, formerly of West Point, and then residing in the city of Hartford. The acquaintance resulted in an arrangement for the publication of Professor Davies' mathematical works, then embracing his Arithmetics, Algebra, Geometry, Surveying, Analytical Geometry, Shades, Shadows, and Perspective; and the Differential and Integral Calculus.

The house of A. S. Barnes & Co., of which Mr. Barnes was the business partner, and of which Professor Davies received a portion of the profits in addition to a fixed copyright, was established in February, 1838, in the city of Hartford, in a small room on Pearl Street, measuring 20 feet by 12. Here in this small room, and without any cash capital, was the origin and birthplace of that extensive publishing establishment, which now combines a large capital with machinery and labor, manufacturing, annually, several millions of volumes, and distributing them throughout all the channels of education and intelligence of a great continent.

Mr. Barnes employed most of the two following years in visiting colleges, academies, and schools in all parts of the country, and calling their attention to the Mathematical Course of Professor Davies, then the only course in the country laying any claim to a complete system. He also availed himself of these opportunities of forming business connections with booksellers at important points, and soliciting their co-operation in the introduction of a system of mathematics which had its origin at the Military Academy at West Point, and which promised to go into general use. In the mean time Professor Davies employed himself in improving his higher course then completed, and in supplementing it by a course, less extended, for academies and high schools; so that the common schools, the academies, and the colleges should have within their reach, each a full and complete system, adapted to its wants, all constructed on the same principles and in perfect unity with each other. The publication of this series laid the foundation for the great success of the house of A. S. Barnes & Co., to which the good understanding and cordial co-operation between author and publisher have largely contributed.

In the year 1840 Mr. Barnes opened a bookstore in Philadelphia, and in 1842 the manufacturing establishment was also transferred to that city.

In the spring of 1855 the entire establishment was permanently located in the city of New York, at the corner of John and Dutch streets, where the manufacturing is still carried on; the firm having removed to their splendid salesrooms and store, on the corner of John and William streets.

In the year 1848, Professor Davies retired from all business connections with the firm, and Mr. Edmund Dwight became associated with Mr. Barnes as partner. In the spring of 1849, he was succeeded by Mr. Henry L. Burr, a brother-in-law of Mr. Barnes, who continued a partner until his death, in July, 1865. Mr. Burr brought to the concern the ability and the experience of a skillful merchant, and the instincts and culture of a gentleman. In the



trying commercial convulsions of 1857, and the more terrible civil convulsions of 1860 and 1861, he gave to the senior partner the aid and support of wise and courageous counsels, and did his full share in the heroic labors that were required to pilot so large a craft safely through such dreadful storms. His early death made a large space in the profession to which he belonged and filled many hearts with grief and sorrow.

In 1866, John C. Barnes, the brother, and Alfred C. Barnes, the son, were admitted as partners; and in 1867, Henry W. Curtis, and in 1868, Henry B. Barnes, a second son, were also made partners. The firm, therefore, at present, consists of five partners. The New York House has also a branch house in Chicago, conducted by Charles J. Barnes, a nephew of the senior partner.

Very soon after the removal of the firm to New York, they formed the plan of publishing a full and complete series of school books, embracing every department of elementary and advanced education. This series they named "The National Series of Standard School-Books."

Besides Davies' Course of Mathematics, already referred to, the list embraces a full series of Readers, by Parker and Watson; a Geographical Series by Monteith and McNally; a history of the United States, large and small, and a Universal History in perspective, by Mrs. Emma Willard; Treatises on Physics and Astronomy, by Professor Bartlett, of West Point; works on Analytical Geometry, the Calculus, Descriptive Geometry and its applications, by Professor Church; and several works by Professor Peck, of Columbia College. To these must be added the series of Professor Steele, entitled "Fourteen Weeks in the Sciences," Worman's German and French Classics, and about thirty volumes on educational subjects for school teachers' libraries—making, in all, about three hundred educational works, reaching from the elementary primer to the most advanced treatises on education, science, and art. The firm also publish the music-books used in most of our churches: viz., Beecher's Congregational Plymouth



Collection; Robinson's Presbyterian Songs for the Sanctuary; and Episcopal Common Praise. Of these, nearly half a million are now used, in the Sabbath and in the evening services of the Evangelical denominations.

The success of Mr. Barnes, as the head of a large publishing establishment, does not prove positively that he has been otherwise successful, and discharged with fidelity other and more important duties of life. A ledger showing large profits is not the best record even of a merchant. There are other records, made elsewhere, more enduring and more highly prized. A sagacious intellect, moved by ambition to great activity and industry, will often accomplish temporary and brilliant success; but moral principles and religious convictions are necessary to a true place in history.

The important step in life, which gives influence and direction to all that follows, is not taken in the counting-room. It is the step which transfers the young man to the head of a family, and imposes upon him the responsibilities and duties of a household. And here, Mr. Barnes received from Providence its most precious blessings.

On the 10th of November, 1841, he was married to Miss Harriet E. Burr, daughter of the late General Timothy Burr, of Rochester, New York. In this marriage were combined all that is necessary to a successful and happy future. There was entire agreement in the general plan of life—a deep religious feeling—a conviction that life has duties and responsibilities reaching beyond the present hour, and that children are born to immortality. Of these, there are ten, five sons and five daughters.

We were present at the celebration of the silver wedding. The parlors were filled with pious and loving friends, merrily chatting with each other, when suddenly the parlor doors were opened, and the family, led by their parents, came in to greet and cheer us. We shall never forget that beautiful sight—the sons on the one side with their father, and the daughters on the other with their

mother, and one grandchild, like a little flower just appearing above the ground. A clergyman present expressed the common sentiment of us all, when he said that the family and the scene reminded him of a sun-dial, which he had seen in an European city, bearing this inscription: "I record only the hours that are pleasant."

The writer is not insensible to the sacred character of that veil which hangs around the domestic circle; but he has felt that, without slightly raising it, he could not well explain why Mr. Barnes, after six days of toil in the counting-room, should be found steadily on the Sabbath at the church and Sunday-school. Why, in the days of short receipts as well as in those of abundant means, he had always something to spare for religious culture and the churches; and why, amid a press of business in New York, he has found time to do his whole duty to the city of Brooklyn, where he has long and permanently resided. He has meant to raise it only so far as is necessary to the fullness and truth of history. No account of the house of A. S. Barnes & Co. would be intelligible, without some knowledge of the motives and inner springs that have contributed so largely to its success.







*Amos A. Weed*



## THURLOW WEED.

This sketch was written in 1852, and has never been published before.



THURLOW WEED was born at Catskill, N. Y., in 1797, of poor parents, whom he lost early in life, and was thrown upon his own resources. His education was obtained in the very common schools of his childish days, to which he may have devoted six months in all, graduating as "boy" on a North River sloop, and thence being promoted to the station of "devil" in a country printing-office; his first lessons in the "art preservative of arts" having been taken on a little newspaper then conducted by the late Colonel William L. Stone, in after years the editor of the *Commercial Advertiser* of this city. He did not remain here long, Colonel Stone and his paper being "Federal" in politics, while the young apprentice was a violent "Democrat" and stormy advocate of a war with Great Britain. When that war came, young Weed, now sixteen years of age, enlisted as a drummer boy, and served on the northern frontier. He returned to his trade on leaving the camp, became a fair compositor and most efficient pressman, for which his athletic frame and muscular force gave him unusual capacity. He worked some time in this city with James Harper (now ex-mayor and head of the publishing house of Harper & Brothers) as his partner; press-work being then done on a "Ramage" with balls, the partners "beating" and "pulling" a "token" alternately, and Harper being one of the most resolute, untiring workers in the city, twelve tokens a day, (three thousand impressions) was their usual limit. Weed soon returned to the country, married and commenced a country newspaper, printing some

years in Onondaga County, afterward at Norwich, Chenango County. In the new political classification of the day, Weed was a "Clintonian" being an early and ardent friend of the canal policy which was then identified with the fortunes of Governor De Witt Clinton.

He made nothing but debts by his successive attempts at country journalizing, the country being new, readers poor and scattered, and newspapers superabundant. The counties in which his attempts were made generally sided with the "Bucktails," allowing him no chance of official advertising. So 1824 found him again a journeyman printer, working for seven or eight dollars a week in Albany, and, on this, supporting a family now considerably numerous, while he was penniless and in debt.

This was the year of the memorable Presidential struggle with Crawford, Adams, Jackson, Clay, and (in the earlier stages) Calhoun in the field as candidates, though "caucus" and "anti-caucus" were the leading watch-words of the fray. A "Republican" caucus composed of sixty-six members of Congress, or about one fourth of the whole number, and less than one-third of the so-called "Republicans," had nominated William H. Crawford, of Georgia, as the "Republican" candidate, and the legitimacy and binding force of such nomination was warmly contested. The "Bucktail" party in New York, then overwhelmingly ascendant, generally sustained the caucus, of which its leader, Martin Van Buren, had been a member, with several of his colleagues. The "Clintonians" violently denounced the caucus, and were joined in this by a faction of the "Bucktails" the coalition taking the name of the "People's party," and demanding that the choice of Presidential electors, theretofore and still by law confided to the Legislature, should now be given to the people. The Crawford "Bucktails" believing themselves sure of choosing their electors by the Legislature, and apprehending defeat if they remitted the choice to the people, determinedly resisted the change, which, though repeatedly carried in the House, was as often stopped in the Senate, where Silas Wright had just made his appearance as a "Bucktail" from the Northern District,

and begun to develop his rare abilities as a politician. Erastus Root and Azariah C. Flagg were likewise "Bucktail" leaders in the two houses, matched by James Tallmadge and Henry Wheaton on the side of the "People's party." A tremendous political excitement was generated by the discussions of the time, which resulted in the choice of De Witt Clinton for governor by sixteen thousand majority over Colonel Samuel Young, and James Tallmadge lieutenant-governor by some thirty thousand over Erastus Root. The Legislature was likewise swept by the "People's party," though the Senate continued "Bucktail" through the preponderance of members holding over; but the electors were still to be chosen by the *old* Legislature, strongly "Bucktail." Yet, by a secret coalition between the "People's party" who were for Mr. Adams, and the "Anti-Caucus Bucktails" whose first choice was Mr. Clay, the "Caucus" party were signally defeated by a fine majority, only four of their electors slipping in, while twenty-five Adams men, seven Clay men, and one claimed by several parties but who finally concluded to vote alone for General Jackson, were chosen. And the master-spirit by whose agency this coalition was effected, and the sanguine expectations of the "Caucus" party frustrated, was Thurlow Weed, the poor journeyman printer of Albany.

He singly detected and baffled successive intrigues by which the vote of New York was to be made sure for Crawford, one of them involving the direct bribery of a member; he printed in solitary secrecy the mixed Adams and Clay ticket which was used in joint ballot (after the House had nominated "Adams" and the Senate "Crawford" electors); and so perfectly was every thing managed, that when, in the joint meeting, the president, as he counted out the ballots, announced in amazement "a printed split ticket!" the entire "Caucus" party was paralyzed by a blow whereof they had no previous suspicion. Had Thurlow Weed been pursuing his trade elsewhere than in Albany, John Q. Adams would never have been President; yet he probably never knew the fact.

Mr. Weed struggled on in poverty and want throughout his ad-

ministration, when even the berth of an inspector of customs would have been deemed by him a fortune.

Soon after this election, Weed removed to Rochester, and there became editor of a daily paper at eight dollars per week. The abduction and presumed death by violence of William Morgan, of Batavia, took place in 1826-7; and Weed, with most of the people of Western New York, were deeply excited thereby, and formed an Anti-Masonic party. Weed became editor of its Rochester organ the "*Anti-Masonic Enquirer*." He was twice elected to the Assembly from Monroe County: once while a journeyman, again after he had become an independent editor, though still very poor. In 1830 an Anti-Masonic daily, semiweekly, and weekly State paper, entitled "*The Albany Evening Journal*," was started at the capital, by the contributions of leading friends of the cause, and Thurlow Weed returned to Albany as its editor on a salary of one thousand dollars a year—a sum far exceeding the income he had enjoyed at any time previous.

He was now in the full vigor of manhood, thoroughly qualified for his vocation by a varied experience, an instinctive knowledge of men, and a profound sympathy with popular instincts and aspirations.

Never a rapid or profuse writer, he wrote tersely, pointedly, spicily, and his journal was immediately recognized as one of the most pungent and effective partisan batteries ever opened on a self-confident yet not quite invincible adversary. The popularity of General Jackson and the unpopularity of the United States Bank combined to keep the *Journal* and its editor for seven years in a minority; yet their influence was even then vast and steadily increasing; and when, in 1837, the State came round by a political revolution equivalent to that of 1824, they were everywhere recognized as the most effective agencies in securing that transformation. When, in 1839, the Whigs obtained full control of the State, Mr. Weed was made State Printer without a competitor or dissenting voice in the party, and from the appointment thus secured to



him for four years, he is understood to have realized a moderate competence.

He some time afterward became one-third owner in the *Journal* establishment, which had now become and still continues prosperous and remunerative, so that he might ere this have been rich if he had not been profusely liberal in charities to the poor and in indorsements for friends. These have diminished his estate but not deprived him of competence. He is still numbered among that small class who may well be deemed rich because they know they have enough. He has never sought and would not accept a re-election as State Printer; has declined a nomination as mayor, persistently urged upon him, and has uniformly rebuked, with a sensitiveness evidently deep and painful, the repeated suggestions of his name as a candidate for governor. Incapacity for public speaking is one of the reasons assigned by him for peremptorily declining office.

Mr. Weed's unequalled influence over his own party in the State, often evinced in its conventions and legislative proceedings, has inevitably subjected him to wide-spread jealousy and hostility. Every Whig aspirant who has not been successful in winning popular favor or official position is pretty certain to attribute his disappointment to "The Dictator." The feuds thus engendered have at times so embittered his existence that he has seriously meditated the abandonment of his journal and of journalism, and the devotion of the remainder of his years to his family and friends on a Western farm. His warm personal and political attachment to his early friend, William H. Seward, and the urgent remonstrances of other friends have barely prevented hitherto such a termination of his public career. His health has not been good for some years past and he has suffered from an incurable enlargement of the blood-vessels of his right leg. He made a trip to Europe with primary reference to this complaint, some years since but without avail. He spent the last winter in a more deliberate tour through Great Britain, France, Italy, and Germany, returning in July of the present year.

Mr. Weed has probably a larger personal acquaintance and can



call more men by name than any other living American, and is not surpassed by any man living in the number of his devoted, enthusiastic friends. In person he is tall, large, and of dark complexion. He has a slight impediment in his speech, though it is seldom obvious. His wife survives, with three daughters—two of them married; but his only son, James, a young man of twenty-five, very like his father, and warmly beloved by him, died a little more than one year ago.





*Leland Stanford*

## LELAND STANFORD.



WHETHER it be true or not that the world knows little of its greatest men, certain it is that California knew little of her foremost man till very recently. He who in the quickly coming future was to be her wisest and most statesmanlike Governor, he who was to build the Pacific Railroad for her, whose destiny it was and is, to carry the locomotive through all her great valleys, and thereby fill them with settlements, towns, cities, an industrious people, and a new civilization, was a quiet unobtrusive merchant in Sacramento, as late as the year 1860, scarcely known except to his neighbors, customers, and a few business correspondents. Leland Stanford never held an office until he was elected Governor. He would not take a renomination, giving as his reason, "Because I had rather be President of the Central Pacific Railroad than to be President of the United States." He probably felt that if he succeeded in the stupendous work of uniting the confines of our broad Republic with a bridge of iron, his name would cut so deep a score in history, that any political office he might fill would be forgotten dust by the side of it. Did not he in his laudable ambition form a proper estimate of true fame? He who has succeeded in doing some great thing productive of good to a whole country, will live in the memory of the people when presidents and governors are remembered no more. Other men may improve upon what he has originated or accomplished, but they can never eclipse his fair renown. As, for instance, ships larger and far better have since been built, and have been commanded by learned navigators, but in all the world there has been but one Columbus. Other canals of greater capacity than the Erie, as it was first constructed, have since been built in the United States, but there has

never been but one De Witt Clinton. No Pacific Railroad of the future, however grand, will take anything from the glory and honor of the first; and there never will be but one Leland Stanford. His was the energy that never wearied; his the patience never exhausted, and his the faith that could never be shaken in the final triumph of the mighty work he had said in his heart he would do. Difficulties that would have crushed every hope in the breasts of most men, he encountered and put aside as only a giant could. Opposition in Wall street, and violent opposition from prominent men of his own State pursued him from the very beginning of the Pacific Railroad enterprise. At times it rolled mountain high in its strivings to combat and ruin Mr. Stanford's Company, but he rose superior to it all. His strength of will, and that power of imagination which enabled him to see far and correctly into the future, added to a mind of almost unlimited resources, carried him successfully through the most difficult financial, and engineering problems that without doubt any railroad builder was ever required to solve. How often the Central Pacific, in its earlier days tottered on the verge of bankruptcy, or how often it seemed as if every precipice and mountain spur in its pathway had found a tongue to say to its invading army of graders and tracklayers, "Thus far shalt thou come but no further," only those who are near to Mr. Stanford, and in his confidence, can ever know. But the road has been built in spite of all obstacles, and it now stands a far more eloquent eulogy to the genius and rare qualities of the man who did so much to make it a success, than any mere words can bestow.

Leland Stanford was born about eight miles from the City of Albany, State of New York, March 9, 1824. He is the fourth of seven brothers, all of whom are still living, save one. His ancestors came over from England more than fifty years before the American Revolution broke out, and settled in the Mohawk Valley. They were farmers of good repute, thrifty and industrious. Five generations of them have lived to till the soil of the Empire State. Josiah



Stanford, the father of Leland, was a man of marked public spirit and enterprise. Besides cultivating his farm, he took contracts for building roads and bridges in all parts of his native country. He was among the first advocates of the Erie Canal, and watched its progress and completion with the keenest interest. He saw with prophetic eye that it was but the beginning of that vast system of internal improvements that was to make his State so famous. In 1828 the locomotive burst upon the world like a miracle. More than all the agencies of previous times combined, it came charged with a power to revolutionize commerce, and to immeasurably improve man's social and physical condition. The great news of the success of George Stephenson's locomotive engine, "the Rocket," on the Manchester and Liverpool road, had crossed the Atlantic but a few months, before a charter was obtained in 1829 from the Legislature of New York, for a railroad between Albany and Schenectady. Josiah Stanford was among the foremost in the new enterprise. He took large contracts for grading, and pushed forward the work with the greatest vigor, and from that day to this the Stanfords have more or less been engaged in the honorable business of railroad building. One of them commenced work on the first iron road built in the United States, and one, the subject of this sketch, and a son of that pioneer, forty years later, drove with his own hand the last spike of the great Pacific Railroad. The Albany and Schenectady Railroad, 15 miles in length, now forms one of the links in the overland road, which measures three thousand three hundred miles between the Atlantic and the Pacific. What the father commenced his son gloriously completed two score of years afterward. Grand coincidence. Precious heir loom of which any royal family might be proud, is this. Till he was twenty years of age, Leland's time was divided between the healthful occupations of a farm life and his studies. At school he is well remembered as a rosy, large, handsome boy, genial, affectionate and popular. His happy temperament and sweet disposition made him a special favorite with his young associates. As a scholar he did not strive

to achieve a brilliant reputation. He had little ambition to dazzle or shine ; conjugations, translations, and the mere rules of the books he studied, were bitter and distasteful to his practical mind. He could remember things, but was apt to forget the words that encased them. He stored his mind richly with facts, but not with forms. From the time he was old enough to reason and reflect, he accepted nobody's conclusions till he had investigated for himself. Such has been his habit through life. This independence of thought, added to original views, which, in the fulness of his manhood, he has formed on nearly every social, financial, and political question of the day, has made him pre-eminently a thought producing and not a thought repeating man. He was never known to make a quotation in all he has ever written or spoken, yet he is well read in the writings of our best modern authors. Books that treat on the philosophy of history, social statistics and political economy, as developed during the last three centuries, he prefers. The works of John Stuart Mill, Herbert Spencer, and Sir William Hamilton, he delights to read, though he does not hesitate to reject, as so much sophistry, some of the theories and arguments advanced by these writers. It is to be regretted that a man self-nurtured on the most advanced ideas of the age, and at the same time possessed of such a discriminating and conservative breadth of mind, has not written more than he has for publication. But Mr. Stanford, early in his life, adopted this as his motto : " It's not what a man *says* so much as what he *does* that makes him useful to the world." He has been a doer. And though for years his heart and brain have been filled with one great absorbing purpose, yet there have always been side tracks to his mind on which his thoughts have run in the intervals of sterner duties. Topics which are in no way kindred to the works he has devoted the balance of his life to perform ; he has analyzed and examined into, whenever a leisure hour would permit. And many there are who have been astonished at the knowledge he possesses on subjects which an active business man is generally supposed to know but little of. In school-boy days, he

never took to the dead languages. Indigestible and repulsive to him were all the technical rules and exceptions about the nominative and accusative case, and Latin versification, and he fully agreed with the German wit, Heine, who said, "How fortunate the Romans were that they had not to learn Latin grammar, because, if they had done so, they never would have had time to conquer the world." Greek mythology and even mediæval history, to a mind like young Stanford's, were dry and mouldy crusts, compared to the rich and bountiful repasts to be found in the physical sciences, and in that new world, beautiful, and altogether lovely as it is, that chemistry and geology open up to us. Mathematics and the sciences were the life-blood of his studies and speculations while at school. Not that he delighted in the abstract formulas of Euclid, or of the differential and integral calculus, but rather in the sifting of evidence and the weighing of probabilities, of seeking principles and facts, and then working out the conclusions. These habits and peculiarities of the school-boy are dwelt upon somewhat at length here, because they are characteristic, and have become a part of the man.

As a lawyer, as a merchant, as Governor, and as a railroad President, Mr. Stanford has exhibited the same modes of thought, the same nice calculations, the same adherence to the real practical things of the world to the exclusion of all that is ancient; the same belief in the present and future, while not thinking or caring particularly for the dead past, that were his chief distinctions when he was a pupil in Albany. But like many other great men, his education really begun after it was supposed to have been closed. It was when he commenced to educate himself that he saw more clearly than ever how many hundred thousand things there are worth knowing in this world which are not found in school books. He devoured newspapers, listened to every lecture and speech made in the neighborhood of his home, and conversed ardently with every person who could enlighten him. His thirst for knowledge was boundless. Every fact that came in his way was seized and digested. His memory strengthened under its new and increased

burdens, while contact with the world hardened and made sinewy every fibre of his intellect, and he rapidly grew to be a young man marked for his versatility and the excellence of his information. In 1846 he entered the law office of Wheaton, Doolittle & Hadley, eminent attorneys in the City of Albany. After three years of patient and hard study he was admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court of the State of New York. Soon after this he removed to the West, determined to seek a new home on the frontier. He settled at Port Washington, in the Northern part of the State of Wisconsin, and for four years was engaged in the practice of his profession at that place. Though moderately successful as a lawyer, it is not improbable that he had mistaken his calling. His brain was too much occupied with outside matters, for a profession which always demands constancy, and the closest attention as a condition of success. Besides, hair-splitting technicalities were distasteful to him. Nature never made him for a special pleader. But he studies deeply and broadly the philosophy of jurisprudence, the spirit more than the letter of the statute which would have made him a good legislator, and an excellent judge of what the law ought to be. In his practice the doctrine of *Stare decisis* was often in his way. New conditions, and a public policy that is constantly becoming more liberal and expanded, he always contended should have more weight in assisting to interpret the law, than mere former decisions, however numerous or musty they might be. But unfortunately for Lawyer Stanford, neither the bar nor the bench of his times was as progressive as he, and he felt fettered. Yet such was his perseverance, that he would in all probability have continued through life in legal chains, had not a conflagration in the Spring of 1852 swept out of existence all his wordly possessions, including his law library. Though disheartened at his loss, it was undoubtedly the most fortunate event of his life up to that time, for it was the cause of his emigration to California, and of his abandoning the legal profession. It is said that had not want, discomfort and distress warrants been busy at Stratford-on-Avon, Shakespeare himself



would probably have continued killing calves and combing wool till his death, and the world and posterity been no wiser for his having lived in it. And that had the Ethel boarding school turned out well, we had never heard of Samuel Johnson. Had the fire at Port Washington not destroyed Leland Stanford's library, and other property, the Pacific Railroad might not have been in existence yet, and possibly not for the next half century. He arrived in California, July 12, 1852, and at once became associated in business with his brothers, three of whom had preceded him to the Pacific coast. They had established a mercantile house in Sacramento, and stores in several of the larger mining camps that were scattered over the State.

The subject of this sketch was first stationed at Michigan Bluffs, at that time a central business point in the great mining county of Placer. Here he carried on an extensive trade, and though merchandising was an occupation he had no previous experience in, he still prospered exceedingly well at it. Scrupulously honest, and honorable in all his dealings, he speedily won the patronage of a good and increasing class of customers. His bland and affable manners, uncommon intelligence, and fine conversational powers, drew around him a host of warm friends. A kind neighbor and a good citizen, no man ever left that mountain country more regretted than was Mr. Stanford, when, in 1856, he removed to Sacramento to engage in mercantile pursuits on a larger scale. The house, of which he was a partner, soon took rank as amongst the largest and most substantial in California. Here he improved his business qualifications very rapidly. Having become an importer, he watched the movements of trade in nearly all the markets of the world, sifted statistics, and weighed and measured the laws of supply and demand. He looked into tariffs and all legislation, State and National, of a financial character, and calculated the effects of it upon business. He made commerce a science, which he studies with all the ardor of an enthusiast. He extracted philosophy and financial wisdom from every fluctuation in prices, and in short, became a



first-class merchant. The knowledge he acquired in trade was of inestimable value in his later and more public life and occupations. It was in his store, and while carrying on large transactions that he developed those powers of generalization; that executive ability and organizing talent for which he has become so distinguished, and it may be said, unrivalled. But he was something more than a successful merchant. He was a philanthropist, and a bold, outspoken lover of freedom. Like Governor Andrew of Massachusetts, he could say that he never despised a man because he was poor, or because he was ignorant, or because he was black. As a very large proportion of the population of California came from the Southern States, an anti-slavery man, before the late war, was almost as much ostracised in this young State as he would have been in South Carolina. But though it often cost him pleasant social relations, and loss of patronage, he never hesitated to avow his principles, nor to express his sympathy for the slave. He contributed largely of his means to bring into existence the Republican party of California, and for the support of that organization through its five years of continued and overwhelming defeats. Twice he was nominated against his wishes for office, once in '57, and again in '59, but the Republican ticket in neither of those years was scarcely heard of, nor mentioned; the political contest being entirely between the two wings of the Democratic party. In 1860 he was chosen a delegate to the Chicago Convention. He there made the acquaintance of Abraham Lincoln, an acquaintance that ripened into an intimate friendship, which remained warm and unbroken till the President's martyred death. Being in Washington at the time of Mr. Lincoln's first inauguration, he remained there several weeks by special request of the President. During those perilous times, when the air was filled with revolution, trouble was anticipated in California also, for it was known that preparations were being made to take her out of the Union. Mr. Lincoln was a wise and shrewd judge of men, and he readily saw that Mr. Stanford, above all others whom he had met, was the true representative

man of the Pacific coast. The President, Secretary Seward, and other members of the cabinet, took him into their confidence, and followed his advice relative to nearly all the Federal appointments for, and as to what measures would preserve peace and loyalty in California. A most conscientious and capable adviser he undoubtedly was. The policy he suggested, when adopted by the Government, produced the most satisfactory results, and the appointees made at his request, proved themselves, without exception, excellent officers, abundantly qualified for their several positions. The laws of the United States were in no place better enforced than in California during the war. Learning, while in Washington, that a movement was on foot to nominate him for Governor of his adopted State, he immediately wrote a letter declining the use of his name for that or any other political position. But his friends at home did not publish the letter as he requested them to do, and he was disappointed to find, on his return from the capital, that his nomination to the first office in California was a foregone conclusion. Seeing that he was fairly in for it, and that there was no escape, he entered upon the contest with all the zeal and strength there was in him. Possessed of perfect physical health, and an iron constitution, he was capable of traveling for days and nights together without rest or sleep. He visited personally about every important polling place in the State. Everywhere he went the people saw in him a man of great force of character and superior cultivation; and by the influence of mind over mind, that "sign and signet of the Almighty to command," which he so largely possesses, thousands and tens of thousands were brought to believe in him and his cause. Seldom has there been a greater political revolution than that which he led in the Golden State in the summer and fall of 1861, and on the waves of which he was elected Governor, receiving 56,300 votes, while his highest competitor obtained but about 33,000. At the last preceeding State election to this, the Republicans did not carry a county, nor did they poll 9,000 votes in all California. Two years later, with Stanford as their

Standard bearer, they increased their vote over six hundred per cent.

There was great rejoicing over his election. It was welcomed as the beginning of a new and infinitely better era. At last a man had been elevated to the Governorship who was not a trading politician, nor a time serving demagogue, but a man who dared to do anything and everything it was right to do; an honest, loyal man, who could no more tolerate corruption or allow disobedience to the laws than he could be a traitor to his country. Such men make the earth wholesome. Place one of them in command of a State and its political atmosphere at once becomes purified. Fresh and bracing as the mountain breezes is the air he breathes over the commonwealth and among his people. Worth more than all her gold mines was such a Governor to California, during the earlier and darker years of the late civil war. Treason, bold and defiant before his election, dissolved or slunk out of sight as soon as he had taken the oath of office. Against this strong man it durst not raise its head. Yet Governor Stanford was ever tolerant of the opinion of others. He favored the largest liberty of thought and action when it did not plainly conflict with the constitution he was sworn to support. He deplored the war as much as any one, and longed religiously for the reign of law and tranquility throughout the whole country.

"Amid the church bells' sweet vibrations,  
He heard the voice of Christ say—peace."

But he loved the Union more than peace, and believed that no sacrifice was too great to preserve it. Almost the first topic discussed in his inaugural address was that which, next to his country, lay nearest to his heart, the Pacific Railroad. He calls it "the great desideratum of California, the world and the age;" and in another place he remarks, "no more could the commercial world dispense with the use of this road when once its relations have been regulated and accompanied by it, than could the West dispense with the great lakes and Erie canal, nor the Southwest with the Mississippi

river." His messages to the legislature are pressed full of information on every point of interest which touches the welfare of the State. Nowhere are there to be found public documents containing less emptiness or surface writing. His State papers abound in weighty sentences and practical ideas. They are clear, methodical and exhaustive essays on a vast number of topics, relative to the wants, industries, institutions, and conditions of a young and growing commonwealth. For instance, in one of his addresses he writes learnedly and well on the following subjects: State finances and taxation, federal relations, geological survey, agriculture, manufactures, emigration, mines and mining laws, grape culture, harbor defences, reform schools, codification of the laws, Chinese labor, education and the common school system, forest and timber lands, swamp and overflowed lands, Indian affairs, State militia, public buildings, insane asylums and charitable institutions. The fact of a man who had never held office before he became Governor, possessing knowledge and statistics sufficient to clearly state the whole truth, and be considered good authority on all the above-named subjects, is the best evidence of the close observer and deep thinker he has been from boyhood. Up to the year 1862, a large amount of land in the most fertile regions of California was held by persons whose only title to it was that of possession. By brute force the rightful owners of those lands were kept from occupying them, and the "squatters" had frequently seized and imprisoned with impunity, sheriffs and other officers of the law, who sought to eject them. Stanford was the first Governor who put down by the strong arm of the State the "squatter riots," and protected the lawful owners in their property. One of his last official acts was to recommend to the legislature the adoption of the United States paper in green-back currency in place of gold and silver, but public opinion was strongly opposed to the change, and his views were not sustained on this subject by the legislature. Time has vindicated the wisdom of his advice, and it is now admitted by all intelligent Californians that a rigid adherence to a metallic currency has done more to re-



tard new enterprises and keep back the development of the Pacific coast than nearly all other causes combined. During the administration of Governor Stanford the State debt of California was reduced more than one half. A State Normal School was organized which has become a great power in the cause of education. Economy, retrenchment, and reform were severely practised in all the public offices, and the State rejoiced in the blessings of prosperity, peace, and happiness. At the close of his term, the legislature bestowed upon Governor Stanford the unusual compliment of a concurrent resolution, passed by a unanimous vote of all parties, in which the Senate and Assembly returned him "the thanks of the people of California for the able, upright, and faithful manner in which he discharged the duties of Governor of the State for the past two years." Said the leading newspaper of San Francisco, as he was taking off the robes of his high office: "Now let Governor Stanford build us a Pacific railroad—if he do that speedily and well, the glory of the Governorship will be as tainted rusty brass, compared with his fame." Said the *Chicago Tribune*: "Build the Pacific railroad in twelve years, and no fifty years of our history will compare to it," and yet it was built in less than six years.

Governor Stanford's name is so thoroughly interwoven in every part of this great work of the age; his genius and energy are so conspicuous in every step of its progress that to write a history of this iron highway of the nation, without making him the central figure, would be like the play of Hamlet, with the immortal Prince of Denmark left out. He it was who shovelled the first earth that commenced it, and he it was who drove the last spike that completed it.

The limits allowed to this biographical sketch will permit of but a few glances at the vast work done by the Central Pacific Railroad Company, under the presidency of Leland Stanford. The Company was organized in Sacramento, July 1st, 1861; one year from that date, Congress passed an act granting to that corporation a loan of bonds, averaging \$35,000 per mile, principal and interest



to be repaid at the expiration of 30 years ; alternate sections of unoccupied land on either side of the road were donated to the company absolutely. None of this subsidy could be obtained till fifty miles were completed and furnished with rolling stock. As all the iron and most of the other materials had to be transported from the Atlantic States, along two oceans and across a foreign country, on its way to California, but little work was done till the fall of 1863, and it was not till July 1st, 1864, that the first 31 miles were completed. From this date commences the mighty struggle and trials of the Company. The next hundred miles of the route lay across a chain of mountains the most difficult to pierce, grade and subdue of any in the world. Imagine a series of lofty cones rising one above another, till in a distance of 70 miles, an elevation is reached of 7,042 feet above the starting point, and that the proposition was to build a railroad up and across those mountain peaks, and down the other side into the valley, 3,000 feet below ; and some idea can be formed of the magnitude of almost the first work commenced by the Pacific Railroad Company.

Many engineers examined the proposed road and declared it impossible to construct ; and Governor Stanford himself, once having climbed to the top of one of the snow-capped Sierras, exclaimed, with a sigh, as he looked down and around him, "Is it possible a railroad can be built here ?" But his depression was only momentary, for his penetrating eye quickly saw that those lofty piles of clay and granite when cut up could be made available in filling the chasms and precipices that yawned between. Besides, his was a faith that could, as it literally did, "remove mountains," and he never allowed himself to doubt afterward. And so armed with shovel and pick, powder and steel, did his army of workingmen go forth to battle with the everlasting hills that towered to the clouds above them. Greater than the army with which Cæsar,

"The foremost man in all the world,"

achieved his most brilliant victories, was that which for four long years

incessantly by night and by day, laid siege to the Sierras until they were bound in irons. During this time, sides of whole mountains were torn off, and many a granite hill of vast proportions blown to ten thousand pieces. On the brinks of precipices, down which they could sometimes look 1,600 feet, were the railroad builders frequently required to toil; and at other times, amid avalanches of snow and ice, which had thundered down with awful velocity into their pathway from crags that seemed hung in the skies above them. But by the steady and well-directed storm of sweat and steam, hammer and drill, and the boom of blasts that rocked the ground like an earthquake, the mountain barriers were finally battered down, and on the 28th day of August, 1867, the Locomotive ascended to the Summit—a point higher than the top of Mount Washington, the loftiest peak in New England. On that day, congratulatory dispatches were received from many of the leading public men of the nation, one signed by Schuyler Colfax and Gov. Bross of Illinois, is as follows:

“Chicago, Aug. 28th. To Hon. Leland Stanford. Our congratulations on the completion of the Summit tunnel. The Locomotive crossing the Sierra Nevada Mountains marks one of the noblest triumphs of energy and enterprise ever known in history. All honor to you and to California.”

The cost of constructing this 100 miles of railroad was not less than \$20,000,000. The Government subsidy for the same distance only amounted to about one-fourth of that sum—and of course, the balance had to be procured elsewhere. Often the financial difficulties of the company seemed insurmountable, and but for the honesty and remarkable ability which characterized the managers of the road, it would have been swamped before it had crossed the foothills. Capitalists who knew them saw that it would do to loan money to such men as Governor Stanford and his four or five associates: viz., Messrs. Crocker, Hopkins, and Huntington, and upon their individual credit, alone, millions of dollars were advanced to prosecute the great work. Having unbounded confidence in their integrity, the State of California, through its Legislature, donated

them without asking for conditions or security, \$1,500,000; and several of the counties of the State subscribed about as much more. Afterwards, the Company's Bonds were placed upon the great money markets of Europe and the Atlantic States, but the large money lenders of the East considered it a hazardous undertaking, and for a long time refused their much needed aid. This refusal was in many instances caused by the enemies of the Pacific Railroad; and, strange to say, there were many in California, who tried to neutralize every effort put forth by that Company. Proprietors of toll-roads, stage lines, and express companies, who were making fortunes out of the freight and passenger travel across the mountains to and from the silver regions of Nevada, knowing that all of their profits would disappear if the Pacific Railroad was built, pursued and made war upon Governor Stanford with sleepless vigilance. He felt their hostile influence in Washington, when he was trying to get the original bill passed. They annoyed his Company with injunctions and vexatious law-suits at every step of its progress. Some of these men were millionaires, and therefore had no difficulty in raising large sums of money for supporting agents in Wall street and Europe, whose business it was to destroy, if possible, the Company's credit abroad. But these trying embarrassments only seemed to bring out the masterly abilities of the great Railroad President. His enemies were checkmated by him in every move they made. He upset and demoralized every clique and corporation that dared to oppose him, and finally established a credit for his railroad in the money centres of the world second to no other company in the United States. The financial troubles of the Central Pacific once having been cleared away, its progress across and beyond the mountains was extremely rapid; 530 miles were built in 293 days, ten miles of it in a single day—a feat unprecedented—showing the thorough discipline of the men who did it, and the perfect organization of the Company which controlled them. On the 10th day of May, 1869, on Promontory Mountain, at a spot overlooking Salt Lake, the last rail was laid and the last

spike driven that finished the Pacific Railroad. A Telegraph wire was attached to the handle of the silver hammer used by Governor Stanford on that occasion, and as he struck the concluding blow which completed the great work—the event was instantly flashed to all parts of the United States. It was a day of national jubilee. Celebrations, ringing of bells, the roar of cannon, and vast processions all over the country, showed how joyfully the people welcomed the glad news. The hero of that day is well described by a newspaper correspondent, who was present at the laying of the last Pacific rail, as follows:

“Leland Stanford is a splendid specimen of American brain and muscle. He is large and imposing in stature, and weighs about 230 lbs., has a massive deep head, prominent jaws, round close shut mouth, superlative grey eyes, forehead of Olympian height, dark skin furrowed with the evidences of responsibility and many cares. On every feature is written firmness, energy and intelligence. He looks like a man who had done a good deal, but who still felt that he had a good deal more to do. He has a pleasant musical voice and is an agreeable conversationist, can talk well on almost any subject that is suggested; and is withal, I am told, something of a philosopher—though by no means a dreamer, as is evident by his wonderful achievements and success in life. From what I have seen of him during the past few days, I take him to be emphatically what the Germans call, “a many sided man;” that is, one who is capable of winning laurels in almost any practical work or calling that should happen to engage his talents and attention. A born leader of men, he undoubtedly is, having that indescribable something about him that creates followers and admirers wherever he may go.”

At the age of 26, he was married to Miss Jane Lathrop, daughter of Dyer Lathrop, Esq., for many years a prominent merchant of Albany, New York.

Mrs. Stanford is a most estimable lady—queenly in person, and endowed with an exalted sense of the duties of her high social position. Possessed of many domestic virtues, there is a daily



beauty in her life and character which belongs only to those true women who are the nobility of their sex.

Since the completion of the Central Pacific, its President has not been idle. He has helped to establish woolen mills, sugar manufactories, and his name is at the head of the most prosperous insurance company in the State of California. The vast railroad organization which obeys his gentlest touch, as the keys of a piano obey every pulsation of the master's hand, has been so thoroughly systematized that most all of his time is required in its management. He is largely interested in the Southern Pacific Railway, and has assisted in advancing it very materially. His Company has purchased the Californian and Oregon road, which is being rapidly pushed into the mountains that separate those two States. It has also purchased the Western road running between Sacramento and San Francisco, and it is building branch lines through nearly all the great valleys of California. Under the administration of Governor Stanford, the Central Pacific Railway has grown in the period of eight years, to be one of the largest and most powerful corporations in the world. Its capital stock, on the 1st of September, 1870, was \$100,000,000, not a share of which could be purchased at par. Its earnings are nearly a million dollars per month. In its schedule of assets are found steamboats, ferries, and real estate, covering more square miles than there are in three of the New England States. Its ramifications extend to China, Japan, India, and to all the important islands of the seas. In fact this road is revolutionizing the carrying trade of those countries.

Victor Hugo says that at Waterloo the world changed front. It changed front again—or rather the world's commerce did—when on Promontory Mountain the last rail of the Pacific Railroad was laid—and its Wellington was Leland Stanford.









*Wm. C. Durant*

## THOMAS C. DURANT.

BY GEN'L SILAS SEYMOUR



THE history of the world shows us, that whenever a period has arrived in the destinies of nations or of governments which seemed to require the presence of some great mind to mould and guide their affairs, there has always come forth some man of commanding genius and powers of organization, whose special mission appeared to be to comprehend and control the situation; the *hour* has always produced the *man*.

In military and political history this fact often appears. And it is none the less true in regard to the great victories of peace, "no less renowned than war." These have often been won by combined intellect, capital, and energy, over the forces of nature, in the development of the physical and commercial resources of the world. Whenever it has become apparent that any great work was necessary for the public good, there has always appeared, just at the proper time, some man equal to the emergency, who seemed especially created to perform this work.

We need not go far back to find instances of this; the name of De Witt Clinton, in connection with the grand Erie Canal, and that of Ferdinand Lesseps, in connection with the Suez Canal, are abundantly sufficient to establish the fact. A most striking illustration is also afforded in our own day, and in our country, by the connection of Thomas C. Durant with the Union Pacific Railroad.

For more than a quarter of a century the public mind had been more or less agitated by the scheme of a great national highway across the American continent. The writers for the press, looking far into the future, drew wonderful imaginary sketches of a grand Appian Way from ocean to ocean. And in the Congress of the

United States, men like Thomas H. Benton indulged in "glittering generalities" with regard to it, and had vast sums of money appropriated for explorations and surveys. Several enterprising, large-minded men were especially prominent in the matter at different times. The great political parties of the country also embodied it as a saving plank in their respective platforms; until, by these means, the people generally had come to have an indistinct faith that at some future time the work would be accomplished.

But there was nothing tangible or practical in the ideas advanced and the speculations thus far indulged in. The whole thing was chimerical, and its realization seemed to be afar off. The engineers in charge of the large exploring and surveying expeditions sent out by the Government made voluminous reports, which consisted mainly of pictures of their camps, and illustrated dissertations on the character and habits of the natives, animals, birds, minerals, and vegetables indigenous to the regions they had traversed. These reports were most ably discussed in Congress, and commented upon by the press; and then more money would be appropriated to print and illustrate these reports, and more parties would be sent out to collect information, and then the whole subject would rest for a time. The *hour* had evidently not yet arrived which was to produce the *man*.

The almost constant agitation of the subject, however, was not without its beneficial results. The people of the country in time became convinced, or rather educated into a belief in the importance, the necessity almost, of the road; and now that this condition of the public mind had been reached, now that the *hour* had arrived, there appeared the *man*; one who, throwing aside as worthless all the mass of surveys, plans, and reports which had been previously made, proceeded to work in his own way, and with his own means, to acquire the information necessary to convince him of the feasibility of the scheme. And when so convinced, he promptly organized the company, and constructed a work that will carry his name and fame down through all the future, as the pro-



jector and builder of the greatest conception of the age, the Union Pacific Railroad, a work which was destined to revolutionize the commerce of the world.

Thomas C. Durant, late Vice-President and General Manager of the Union Pacific Railroad, was born in Lee, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, in 1820. His father, Thomas Durant, was a merchant and manufacturer; and his grandfather, William Durant, was an officer in the Revolutionary War, and a member of the Boston Committee of Safety.

What influence the vigorous air of that rugged region may have had in molding his racy and enterprising mental character, it is not for us to say; but doubtless the Green Mountain climate exerted its powerful and animating tendencies in rapidly developing his intellect and in sharpening his inherently quick perception. Selecting medicine and surgery as the field in which he might employ his natural and acquired talents advantageously, he entered the Albany Medical College, and was graduated therefrom with full honors at twenty, receiving his diploma a year earlier than it is customary for medical schools to grant such license. Dr. Durant did not find in the practice of his profession scope enough; his mind yearned for larger fields, more extensive interests, and more comprehensive considerations; and, having an opportunity to engage in mercantile life, after but a brief experience of three years as a physician, he accepted it, and became a partner in the firm of Durant, Lathrop & Co., of Albany. The business of this house was very extensive, having branches in Buffalo, Chicago, and New York, with numerous agents at different points, besides owning and employing a large number of vessels for the transportation of merchandise. Their operations were chiefly in flour and grain, and their transactions were conducted on a scale unsurpassed by any other dealers in their line. Mr. Durant had special charge of the New York branch, and shipped very largely to all the principal European ports.

The business was carried on with unexampled success until the

breaking out of the French Revolution in 1848. Previous to that time the foreign demand for cereal productions had been very great, and the shipments of Durant, Lathrop & Co. were enormous. The knowledge of the resources of the great West, obtained in the course of his mercantile career, made him an earnest advocate of internal improvements, and induced him to turn his attention to railway matters. He appreciated, with all the clearness and foresight of a De Witt Clinton, the importance of bringing the East and the West—the Atlantic and the Pacific—into a closer connection, strengthened by iron bands, and greatly improved commercial relations. He assisted very materially in promoting the interests of the Michigan Southern Railroad, and was the principal contractor in constructing the Bureau-Valley, the Chicago and Rock Island, and the Mississippi and Missouri railroads. Exhibiting boldness, sagacity, and tact in manipulating stocks, he became one of the most successful operators of the stock exchange, and invested the greater part of his capital in railroad securities. Interesting himself from the first in the scheme of a great medium of transit from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, at a time when the project appeared almost impracticable, Mr. Durant cherished and furthered it with all the enthusiasm of his energetic nature.

Several years previous to the organization of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, under the charter passed by Congress in 1862, Mr. Durant, in connection with parties with whom he was engaged in constructing railroads in Illinois and Iowa, caused preliminary surveys to be made up the Platte Valley; and in 1863 (also prior to the organization of the company) he, at his own expense, sent several corps of engineers to examine the country and make surveys of the route, commencing at Omaha and other points on the Missouri River, and embracing the line through Cheyenne Pass and Bridger's Pass, into the basin of the great Salt Lake. And it is a striking fact that the route thus indicated by Mr. Durant, in his instructions to his engineers, varies but a few miles at any point from the line subsequently adopted by the Company. Mr. Durant also at the same

time sent out a competent geologist for the purpose of ascertaining the mineral resources of the country.

In 1863 he was active in procuring the subscription of two million dollars of stock, which was required by the act of Congress before the Company could be fully organized ; when, finding it difficult to induce capitalists to embark in the enterprise, he either subscribed himself, or caused to be subscribed for his account, three fourths of the entire amount, and paid the first instalment of ten per cent. thereon.

Having, from the surveys and examinations previously made, obtained a knowledge of the obstacles to be surmounted in constructing the railroad, he devoted the winter of 1863 and 1864 to obtaining important amendments to the charter, which doubled the land-grant, and made the Company's mortgage-bonds a first lien upon the road ; and during the year 1864 perfected the financial organization under which the work was carried on to completion.

These amendments to the original charter, and the organization required to secure the completion of the road, were attended with difficulties, and involved interests of far greater importance and of a far more extended nature than was really apparent at the time, or even at a later day, to any but the most close and interested observer. They involved the construction of a first-class railroad and telegraph line over the different ranges of the Rocky Mountains, and entirely through the undeveloped and almost uninhabited Territories of the United States, extending from the Missouri River to the eastern boundaries of the State of California. The nation was in the midst of a devastating civil war which rendered labor unusually scarce, and the price of material and supplies exceedingly high. The value of gold was almost doubled, while the best of securities were much below par.

The route of the road was entirely disconnected from any great thoroughfare or means of transportation, except the uncertain navigation of the Missouri River at its eastern base during a portion of the year ; and nothing of the kind was approaching it from any

direction. It stood, therefore, entirely isolated and alone, so far as any outside influences could be brought to bear, either in commencing or carrying forward the great work.

Upon the construction of this main trunk-line depended the construction not only of all its branch-lines and extensions which had also been subsidized by Congress, but also of the different lines that were to connect with it from the eastward. None of these could be moved forward with safety until the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad was reduced to a certainty.

It became, therefore, the great motive power, or locomotive, which was to haul in its train these different branches and connections. If the machinery proved to be perfect, and the engine remained upon the track, the entire train was sure to go through triumphantly to its destination, otherwise both locomotive and cars would be wrecked along the way.

The responsibility therefore which devolved upon Mr. Durant at this time was very great, and he undoubtedly appreciated it in all its force. The eyes of the nation were fixed upon him. And all the various interests represented by diverging, converging, or connecting lines were watching with the closest scrutiny for the development of his plans, in order to judge of the expediency of proceeding with their own. The slightest mistake in these preliminary arrangements would undoubtedly have proved fatal to the enterprise. But, most fortunately, no such mistake occurred; and the wisdom and foresight of his plans and combinations were more than justified by the result which followed.

The work of construction was commenced in the spring of 1865, and prosecuted without interruption until its completion in the spring of 1869. About six hundred miles were constructed during the last year, at an elevation of from six thousand to eight thousand feet above the sea.

The construction of eleven hundred miles of railroad in four years, through an uninhabited country, requiring all supplies and materials to be brought from the rear, certainly is a feat unsurpassed in the



annals of railway construction. Nothing but the most indomitable energy, clear foresight, and consummate skill in the organization of capital and labor, all of which are possessed in a remarkable degree by Mr. Durant, could have accomplished such a result.

Immediately after laying the last rail upon the Union Pacific Railroad, Mr. Durant retired from its active management. Among the enterprises that have since engaged his attention, the most important, probably, is that of developing and opening up, by the construction of a railroad directly through its center, the vast territory, covered with dense forests of the most valuable timber, and rich in extensive deposits of iron ores, situated in the northern part of the State of New York, and known as the Adirondack Region.

A western correspondent of one of the leading papers of New York gives the following graphic sketch of Mr. Durant, as he appeared at one of the Chicago hotels, at about the time of the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Meanwhile, one of the most marked, original characters of all this throng is one of the quietest and least noticeable. There he sits, chatting carelessly in low tones, a rather tall man, in middle life, his hair and whiskers beginning to show streaks of gray, and his worn, mild, thoughtful face shaded by the limp brim of a low-crowned brown hat. It is Thomas C. Durant, manager and builder of the Union Pacific Railroad. Mr. Durant had energetic, persevering associates, but he has been the motive-power—has borne the brunt of everything.

He was born among the Berkshire hills of Massachusetts. He studied medicine and graduated at Albany, and tried to content himself as a practicing physician; but with no other vent than feeling pulses and writing prescriptions, his inborn, restless energy would have left him no peace. He became the head of a heavy firm for transporting freight from New York to the West. It often carried supplies for new railway companies, taking their securities in payment. Negotiating these bonds familiarized him with the stock market. Then he got to building roads himself, taking enormous contracts, pushing forward the work and selling the bonds, and becoming widely known as a contractor and operator.

In the early doubtful years of the war, he went into the Union Pacific Company. His first step was to spend several months in inducing Congress to change the law, and make the Government lien only a second mortgage upon the road, that the Company might issue its own bonds as a first mortgage. Even after this was done, his Eastern associates lacked faith in the enterprise. But his whole soul was thrown into it; and he furnished from his private means a large portion of the first resources. He believed in the nation, in the West, in a Pacific Railway. "The fact was," he explains when asked about it, "I had built roads before or on the prairies in advance of



settlements, and I know how they bring population and make business from the very outset."

It was hard study. Even after the money was raised, labor could hardly be found. "The boys" were all in the war. But men were gathered up in Canada, in New England, in Pennsylvania, and sent forward fifteen hundred miles at the Company's expense. And the number kept increasing till at one time eighteen thousand laborers were employed.

Things were conducted upon a grand scale. Enormous excursions were sent out from the East, over the line, in palace cars, with a sumptuous regardlessness of expense. The offices of the Company were among the most elegant in New York. Brussels carpets, and black-walnut and marble counters in the rooms of the managers, rare statuary and choice paintings, surprised the eyes of visitors. Dr. Durant's horses were the envy of Central Park, and his yacht was the admiration of the New York Yacht Club.

Meanwhile he was working like a galley-slave. Sometimes he was hardly in bed for a week; again, he would spend nights and Sundays upon his yacht for the quiet and cool air. He plunged into the controversies in the Company with characteristic energy; and I fancy there were times when he could not have told whether the next turn of the wheel would leave him worth a few millions, or a few millions worse than nothing. But the great work never flagged. The expenses were enormous. Laborers were paid as high as three dollars per day and board. As the road pushed on, everything, workmen, food, iron, timber, fuel, had to go forward upon the single track. It was like building a road from Chicago to New Orleans, and carrying all the supplies, even coal and bridge-timber, from Boston. The telegraph bills alone amounted to a small fortune. Sometimes, in an emergency, ties, which had been transported eight hundred miles, were burned for fuel.

At last, after his every nerve has been strained for four years, he is foot-loose once more. As he gets up for a stroll, we see the chief mark that his terrible labor has left on him; his frame is bowed, and he looks like a modern Atlas, a little surprised that his heavy burden has rolled off. He has done the work; let him have the credit of it. He is said to own one-fourth of the entire road. Now he will devote himself to his private affairs, which have taken care of themselves during these busy years. Perhaps, for this summer's recreation, he will build the plaything of a railway to the Adirondacks, in which he has a controlling interest, and where he owns half a million acres of land more or less.

Where will his indomitable energy next find vent? His mainspring seems to be not love of money for itself, or of notoriety in any sense, but a love for large operations—a resistless desire to be "swinging" great enterprises, and doing everything on a magnificent scale. And yet, this man, who has chosen such a stormy career, and who, while yet under fifty, has carried forward such a stupendous and historic work to completion, half considers his life a failure, because it has not been devoted to natural science, the subject of all others which fascinates him, and in which he always finds rest and recreation.

## THOMAS ALEXANDER SCOTT.

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THOMAS ALEXANDER SCOTT was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, on the 28th of December, 1825.

He received during boyhood the ordinary educational advantages of the country district schools. In 1844 he entered the collector's office at Columbia, Pennsylvania, as a clerk under the Board of Canal Commissioners, and continued in that capacity until 1847. He was then transferred to the collector's office at Philadelphia, where he remained three years. In 1850 he became connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad, and was on duty first at Hollidaysburgh, then an important transshipping point between the railroad and canal, and afterward in charge of portions of the western division during its construction. In the latter position his untiring energy and readiness in meeting the difficulties contingent upon a mixed system of boat, car, and stage transportation, were of great value ; and on the completion of the division, in 1852, he was made superintendent, and managed its rapidly increasing business for the ensuing six years.

In 1858 he was appointed general superintendent of the road, and in 1860, on the death of the Hon. William B. Foster, was called to the vice-presidency, which position he still retains ; although the manifold duties consequent upon the wonderful growth of business now require the service of three associates. Mr. Scott, as the first vice-president, is especially charged with the relations between connecting lines and the roads owned or controlled by the Company ; and upon him are thus devolved the harmonious management of over four thousand miles of road, the property of many dif-

ferent corporations, and the settlement of the complicated questions that are always arising in connection therewith.

In the fall of 1861 President Lincoln called on Mr. Scott to fill the position of Assistant Secretary of War. The exigencies of the war had already imposed new and grave responsibilities on the officers of trunk lines, but he was prevailed upon to assume the herculean task of supervising the transportation of our vast armies, and in addition thereto aided generally in discharging the duties so suddenly and unexpectedly thrust upon the department.

His singular clearness of perception, promptness in action, rare administrative abilities, together with his knowledge of and faith in the resources of the country, made him an invaluable officer to the government. He served in that capacity until the fall of 1862, when he resumed his railroad duties, having worthily earned the gratitude of the administration and of the country. Since then, his time has been absorbed by the labors of his profession, in which he is conceded to hold the front rank; and he has shown rare ability in the solution of the problems evolved in the rapid development of railway transportation, and in anticipating and providing for its future wants.

The Pennsylvania Railroad stands conspicuous among the great corporations of the world for its prudent and successful management. For nearly twenty years it has had J. Edgar Thompson at the head of its administration; and from a feeble corporation, struggling to cross the Alleghanies to the Ohio, it has grown with a steady growth until it drains every portion of the great West by lines under its immediate control. It is without a rival in point of time, in uniting the Western emporiums of trade with the commercial cities of the Atlantic coast, and has its connections also perfected with those of the Gulf. It has an eye single to completing the main avenues of trade, and insuring to the interests dependent upon them the highest measure of substantial prosperity.

Mr. Scott is eminently a self-made man. Without the aid of fortuitous circumstances, he has steadily risen from a clerkship on

the Pennsylvania Canal to be one of the most experienced and skillful railroad men of the country, and he is scarcely less distinguished for his many estimable personal qualities. Few men of the present day have so creditable a record for wide-spread usefulness and well-earned distinction in the march of progress.





## GEORGE H. BOKER.

BY BAYARD TAYLOR.



R. BOKER is one of the youngest of American authors. He is a native of Philadelphia, and was born, we believe, in the year 1824. After the usual preparatory studies in the city of his birth, he entered the college at Princeton, New Jersey, of which he is a graduate. In addition to the collegiate course, however, he devoted much time to the study of Anglo-Saxon, and to the perusal of the early masters of English literature, whose influence is discernible in all his earlier poems. Soon after leaving college he made a visit to France and England, but was obliged to return, after having been but a short time abroad, owing to the critical state of his health. He was at that time suffering under a pulmonary disease which threatened to be fatal, but all symptoms of which, fortunately, have since disappeared. On his return he took up his residence in Philadelphia, which continues to be his home.

Mr. Boker first appeared as an author at the commencement of the year 1848, when a volume of his poems, under the title of "The Lesson of Life," was published in Philadelphia. The publication of a volume was no light ordeal to a young poet whose name was unknown, and who, we believe, had never before seen himself in print. The lack of self-observation and self-criticism, which can only be acquired when the author's thoughts have taken the matter-of-fact garb of type, would of itself be sufficient to obscure much real promise. In spite of these disadvantages, the book contained much that gave the reader the impression of a mind of genuine and original power. We remember being puzzled at its seeming incongruity, the bold, mature, and masculine character of its thought

being so strikingly at variance with its frequent crudities of expression. It seemed to us the work of a man in the prime of life, whose poetic feeling had taken a sudden growth, and moved somewhat unskillfully in the unaccustomed trammels of words, rather than the first essay of a brain glowing with the fresh inspiration of youth.

No one saw the author's imperfections sooner than himself; and, before the year had closed, his tragedy of "*Calaynos*" was published—a work so far in advance of what he had hitherto accomplished, so full, not only of promise for the future, but of actual performance, that it took his most confident friends by surprise. To write a five-act tragedy is also a bold undertaking; but there is an old French proverb which says, "if you would shoot lions, don't begin by aiming at hares," and we believe there are fewer failures from attempting too much than with being content with too little. The success of "*Calaynos*" showed that the author had not aimed beyond his reach. The book attracted considerable attention, and its merits as a vigorous and original play were very generally recognized. Although written with no view to its representation on the stage, it did not escape the notice of actors and managers, and a copy happening to fall into the hands of Mr. Phelps, a distinguished English tragedian, it was first performed under his direction at the Theater Royal, Sadler's Wells, Mr. Phelps himself taking the part of *Calaynos*. Its success as an acting play was most decided, and after keeping the stage at Sadler's Wells twenty or thirty nights, it went the round of the provinces. It has already been performed more than a hundred times in different parts of Great Britain.

"*Calaynos*" gives evidence of true dramatic genius. The characters are distinct and clearly drawn, and their individualities carefully preserved through all the movements of the plot, which is natural and naturally developed. The passion on which the action hinges is the prejudice of blood between the Spanish and Moorish families of Spain. The interest of the plot, while it never loses sight of the hero, is shared in the first three acts by the other personages of the story, but concentrates at the close on *Calaynos*, whose outbursts

of love and grief and revenge are drawn with striking power and eloquence. The play is enlivened with many humorous passages, wherein the author shows his mastery of this element, so necessary to the complete dramatist.

Mr. Boker's next publication was the tragedy of "Anne Boleyn," which appeared in February, 1850. In this work he touched on more familiar ground, and in some instances, in his treatment of historical characters, came in conflict with the opinions or prejudices of the critics. The necessity of adhering to history in the arrangement of the plot and selection of the *dramatis personæ* imposed some restraint on the author's mind, and hence, while "Anne Boleyn" exhibits a calmer and more secure strength, and a riper artistic knowledge than "Calaynos," it lacks the fire and passionate fervor of some passages of the latter. We should not forget, however, that the Thames has a colder and sadder sun than the Guadalquivir. Objections have been made to Mr. Boker's *King Henry*, especially to his complaint of the torments of his conscience, and his moralizing over *Norris's* ingratitude. But those who cavil at these points seem to forget that, however vile and heartless *King Henry* appears to them, he is a very different man to himself. The author's idea—and it is true to human nature—evidently is, that a criminal is not always guilty to his own mind. This marked insensibility of *King Henry* to his own false and corrupt nature is a subtle stroke of art.

The language of the tragedy is strong, terse, and full of point, approaching the sturdy Saxon idiom of the early English dramatists. We might quote many passages in support of our opinion, as, for instance, the scene between the *Queen* and her brother, *Lord Rochford*; between the *Queen* and *King Henry*; *Wyatt* and *Rochford*, and *King Henry* and *Jane Seymour*. Two or three brief extracts we can not avoid giving. *Wyatt* and *Rochford* are in "The Safety," the thieves' quarter of London—the St. Giles of that day. *Wyatt* speaks:—

"I oft have thought the watchful eye of God  
 Upon this place ne'er rested; or that hell  
 Had raised so black a smoke of densest sin,  
 That the All-Beautiful, appalled, shrunk back  
 From its fierce ugliness. I tell you, friend,  
 When the great treason, which shall surely come  
 To burst in shards law-bound society,  
 Gives the first shudder, ere it grinds to dust  
 Thrones, ranks, and fortunes, and most cunning laws—  
 When the great temple of our social state  
 Staggers and throbs, and totters back to chaos—  
 Let men look here, here in this fiery mass  
 Of aged crime and primal ignorance,  
 For the hot heart of all the mystery—  
 Here, on this howling sea, let fall the scourge,  
 Or pour the oil of mercy!

*Rochford.*

Pour the oil—

In God's name, pour the blessed oil! The scourge,  
 Bloody and fierce, has fallen for ages past  
 Upon the forward crest within its reach;  
 Yet made no more impression on the mass  
 Than Persia's whips upon the Hellespont!"

Wyatt's soliloquy on beholding *Queen Anne* led forth to execution is full of rare and subtle beauty, both of thought and expression:

"O Anne, Anne!

The world may banish all regard for thee,  
 Mewing thy fame in frigid chronicles,  
 But every memory that haunts my mind  
 Shall cluster round thee still. *I'll hide thy name*  
*Under the coverture of even lines,*  
*I'll hint it darkly in familiar songs,*  
 I'll mix each melancholy thought of thee  
 Through all my numbers, *so that heedless men*  
*Shall hold my love for thee within their hearts,*  
*Not knowing of the treasure."*

The last scene, preceding the death of *Anne Boleyn*, is simple and almost homely in its entire want of poetic imagery; yet nothing could be more profoundly touching and—in the highest sense of the word—tragic. The same tears which blur for us the lines of Browning's "Blot on the 'Scutcheon," and the last words of Shelley's "Beatrice Cenci," suffuse our eyes at this parting address of *Anne Boleyn* to her maidens beside her on the scaffold:—



"And ye, my damsels,  
 Who whilst I lived did ever show yourselves  
 So diligent in service, and are now  
 To be here present in my latest hour  
 Of mortal agony—as in good times  
 Ye were most trustworthy, even so in this,  
 My miserable death, ye leave me not.  
 As a poor recompense for your rich love,  
 I pray you to take comfort for my loss—  
 And yet forget me not. To the king's grace,  
 And to the happier one whom you may serve  
 In place of me, be faithful as to me.  
 Learn from this scene, the triumph of my fate,  
 To hold your honors far above your lives.  
 When you are praying to the martyred Christ,  
 Remember me who, as my weakness could,  
 Faltered afar behind His shining steps,  
 And died for truth, forgiving all mankind.  
 The Lord have pity on my helpless soul!"

After the publication of "Anne Boleyn," Mr. Boker wrote two plays,—*"The Betrothal,"* and *"All the World a Mask,"*—both of which have been produced on the stage in Philadelphia with the most entire success. *"Calaynos"* was also played a number of nights, Mr. Murdoch taking the principal part. *"The Betrothal"* was performed in New York and Baltimore with equal success. It is admirably adapted for an acting play. The plot is not tragic, though the closing scenes have a tragic air. The dialogue is more varied than in *"Anne Boleyn"* or *"Calaynos"*—now sparkling and full of point; now pithy, shrewd, and pregnant with worldly wisdom; and now tender, graceful, and poetic. *"All the World a Mask"* is a comedy of modern life. We have not seen it represented, and it has not yet been published; yet no one familiar with the fine healthy humor displayed in portions of *"Calaynos"* and *"The Betrothal"* can doubt the author's ability to sustain himself through a five-act comedy.

In addition to these plays, Mr. Boker has published from time to time, in the literary magazines, lyrics and ballads that would of themselves entitle him to rank among our most worthy poets. It is rare that a dramatic author possesses lyric genius and *vice versa*,



yet the true lyric inspiration is no less perceptible in Mr. Boker's "Song of the Earth" and "Vision of the Goblet," than the true dramatic faculty in his "Anne Boleyn."

There is a fresh, manly strength in his poetry which may sometimes jar the melody a little, but never allows his verse to flag. The life which informs it was inhaled in the open air; it is sincere and earnest, and touched with that fine enthusiasm which is the heart's-blood of lyric poetry. Take, for instance, this glorious Bacchic from the "Vision of the Goblet":—

"Joy! joy! with Bacchus and his satyr train,  
In triumph throbs our merry Grecian earth;  
Joy! joy! the golden time has come again,  
A god shall bless the vine's illustrious birth!  
Io, io, Bacche!

"O breezes, speed across the mellow lands,  
And breathe his coming to the joyous vine;  
Let all the vineyards wave their leafy hands  
Upon the hills to greet this pomp divine!  
Io, io, Bacche!

"O peaceful triumph, victory without tear,  
Or human cry, or drop of conquered blood,  
Save dew-beads bright that on the vine appear,  
The choral shouts, the trampled grape's red flood!  
Io, io, Bacche!

"Shout, Hellas, shout! the lord of joy is come,  
Bearing the mortal Lethe in his hands,  
To make the wailing lips of sorrow dumb,  
To bind sad Memory's eyes with rosy bands:  
Io, io, Bacche!"

In the "Song of the Earth," which shows a higher exercise of the poetic faculty than any thing else Mr. Boker has written, he has enriched the language with a new form of versification. Except in this poem, we do not remember ever to have seen *dactylic* blank verse attempted in the English language. The majestic and resonant harmonies of the measure are strikingly adapted to the poet's theme. The concluding "Chorus of Stars," rebuking the Earth for

her pride as the dwelling-place of the human soul, is a splendid effort of the imagination. We know not where to find surpassed the sounding sweep of the rhythm in the final lines:—

“Heir of eternity, Mother of Souls,  
 Let not thy knowledge betray thee to folly!  
 Knowledge is proud, self-sufficient, and lone,  
 Trusting, unguided, its steps in the darkness.  
 Thine is the wisdom that mankind may win,  
 Gleaned in the pathway between joy and sorrow;  
 Ours is the wisdom that hallows the child  
 Fresh from the touch of his awful creator,  
 Dropped like a star on thy shadowy realm,  
 Falling in splendor, but falling to darken.  
 Ours is the simple religion of Faith,  
 Trusting alone in the God who o’errules us;  
 Thine are the complex misgivings of Doubt,  
 Wrested to form by imperious Reason.  
*Knowledge is restless, imperfect, and sad;*  
*Faith is serene, and completed, and joyful.*  
 Bow in humility, bow thy proud forehead,  
 Circle thy form with a mantle of clouds,  
*Hide from the glittering cohorts of evening,*  
*Wheeling in purity, singing in chorus;*  
*Howl in the depths of thy lone, barren mountains,*  
*Restlessly moan on the deserts of ocean,*  
*Wail o’er thy fall in the desolate forests,*  
*Lost star of Paradise, straying alone!”*

Mr. Boker’s next volume, “The Podesta’s Daughter, and Other Poems,” was published toward the close of the year 1851. The leading poem, with another lyrical narrative, entitled “The Ivory Carver,” attracted much attention, both in this country and England (where the latter was made the subject of a painting by a prominent artist), and added to the author’s fame. Some of the poems have been translated into German, and published in an “American Anthology.” His fondness for the dramatic form, however, soon recalled him to the field wherein he had won his first success. He wrote the tragedies of “Leonor de Guzman” and “Francesca da Rimini,”—the latter an extension of the celebrated episode in Dante’s “Inferno,”—and both were produced on the stage. “Francesca da Rimini” was acted for two or three weeks in New York, where

it won the hearty commendations of those whose taste had not been corrupted by the melodramatic, sensational school, which has since taken possession of almost all our theaters.

In 1857 a collected edition of Mr. Boker's works was published by Ticknor & Fields, in Boston. It is in two handsome volumes, entitled "Plays and Poems," including not only the volumes previously published, but also the dramatic poems which had not yet appeared in print. A second edition was published the same year, and the volumes have since been issued in a new form by Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. Although they address themselves to the smaller and more cultivated audience, the impression which they made of the author's power and high literary aim has been all the more permanent. They constitute a basis of performance, upon which to build the reputation of his riper days.

The commencement of the war changed the direction of the poet's activity. One of the most loyal of Americans, filled with an inextinguishable faith in the justice and the vitality of our system of government, and in its final triumph over the forces which for a time seemed to threaten its existence, he devoted all his energies toward keeping alive, consolidating, and organizing the patriotic sentiment of the country. From time to time the blast of his Tyrtæan trumpet was heard in lyrics which went over the land, stirring and encouraging, like those of Körner in Germany, in 1813; and he was one of the very first to seize upon the plan of utilizing the power of the loyal people by the creation of Leagues, as a civil reserve which should morally strengthen the soldiers in the field. He was one of the founders, and, as secretary, the most active officer of the Union League of Philadelphia, which sent ten regiments into the field, and accomplished a greater amount of important work than any other similar organization in the country. Even literature—with the exception of those patriotic lyrics—was given up to this duty; of all the loyal men whose work at home was not less important to the nation than the bravery and endurance of its defenders in arms, there was probably not one who gave more of his

time and talents to the cause, during the years of the war and reconstruction, than Mr. Boker.

His "Poems of the War" were collected and published as a volume in the year 1864. They were already popular with all classes, from the school-boy who declaimed them at his public examinations and the soldiers who read them by the camp-fire, to the mourners who took fresh pride in the lost from their lofty spirit of patriotism, or consolation from the tenderness with which they celebrated the dead. Several editions of the volume were published during the year; and, as the most important contribution made by any author to the poetic literature of our great national struggle, its popularity must only increase, as the glamour of time gives their true heroic proportions to the deeds the poet has sung. The following year, he delivered a poem, entitled "Our Heroic Themes," before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Harvard University,—an occasion which was memorable on account of the commemoration of the graduates who fell in battle. The poem was enthusiastically received, and has since been delivered at the reunion of the officers of the Army of the Potomac, in Philadelphia, in the presence of President Grant, Generals Sheridan, Meade, Hooker, Burnside, and others.

Mr. Boker's last volume is "Königsmarke, the Legend of the Hounds, and other Poems," published in 1869. "Königsmarke" is the tragic story of Sophia Dorothea of Hanover, given with a simple strength and adherence to the accepted historic details, which is almost a phenomenon in this generation of authors. In style and atmosphere, there could be no greater contrast than this play of Boker's and Mr. Swinburne's "Chastelard." The bolder artist is he to whom truth is the first and most important element. The tragic portions of "Königsmarke" are as sober in tone as the tragic truth of life; and the maturity of Mr. Boker's genius is manifested in the courage with which he disregards the conventional—and therefore temporary—craving for effect, which belongs to the taste of our day. An author of his intellectual constitution must expect to be both misunderstood and neglected; he must accustom himself to see

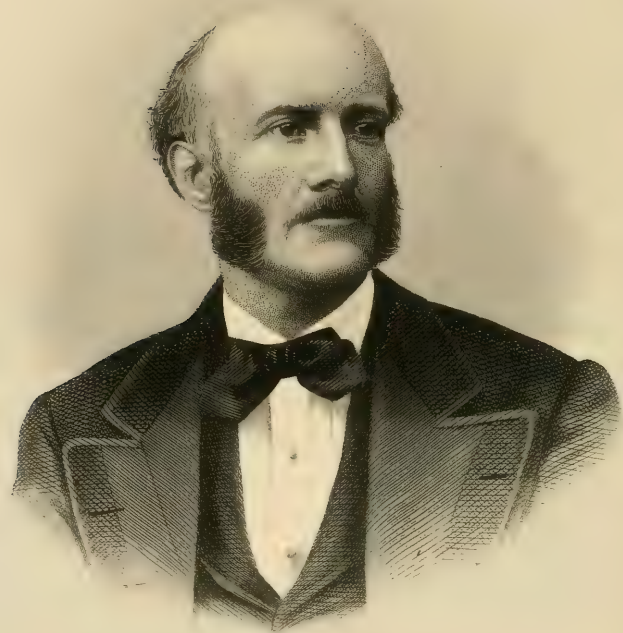


more noisy and superficial claimants receive the favor of the public : he must patiently await the growth of a recognition which shall be enduring because it is not dependent on fashions in literature.

We are constantly hearing of our "self-made men" (as if every genuine success were not self-achieved), and there is no part of the country which can not point to some of its citizens who have risen to distinction without other aids than their own faith, energy, and self-denial. Mr. Boker, however, belongs to a class which is much rarer with us ; he is one of the very few who, having wealth, social position, and leisure, nevertheless conscientiously cultivate their best intellectual qualities and acquire honorable fame. He is not only a born poet, but, without the stimulus of necessity, he labors to perfect his art, not for the sake of immediate reputation and its collateral advantages, but for the Art's own sake. In this respect, his example will continue to be more and more fruitful of good, as the class of those who recognize it increases with time







Henry Lewis

## HENRY CLEWS.

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HENRY CLEWS, ESQ., was born in Staffordshire, England, August 14, 1834, and is therefore in the thirty-seventh year of his age. He pursued a course of instruction under Dr. Palin in Surrey, and under Dr. Stocks at Poplar, near London. In 1849 his father, who was an extensive manufacturer for the American trade, came to the United States on a business visit, accompanied by his son Henry. It had been previously determined that young Clews should be educated for the Church, and on his return from America he was to enter the University of Cambridge for that purpose. The eminently practical business spirit of the American people, however, indicated a prospect which to him possessed greater fascinations than the clerical profession, and with the sanction of his father he promptly determined upon seeking his fortune in the New World. In answer to an advertisement of Wilson G. Hunt & Co., dealers in woolen goods, he obtained a situation as clerk in that house. This was in the spring of 1849. He remained with this firm nine years, and by the industry, integrity, and sterling business qualities which he exhibited, he laid the foundations of future financial success. His relations with his associate clerks were of the most cordial character, and he preserved a reputation untainted by any of those follies or vices which have blighted the prospects of so many young men in large cities. His pleasing address, his fixed habits of prudence and sobriety, and his careful observance of the proprieties of life, arising from a naturally refined taste, gave him access to cultivated society, the advantages of which he was admirably fitted to appreciate and improve; while his clear perceptions, high moral principles, and

decision of character, seldom attained except in mature years, fitted him for the most important trusts. Mr. Hunt rightly estimated his excellent qualities of mind and heart, and gave the highest indorsement of his character.

Mr. Clews possesses all the qualifications which combine to make up the successful merchant, and, had he chosen to pursue this career, there is every reason to believe it would have been attended with far more than ordinary success. But his early ambition was to be a banker. His first step in that direction was taken at the age of twenty-five, when he entered Wall Street as a dealer in commercial paper, forming with others the copartnership of Stout, Clews & Mason. Having thus determined and entered upon this business, he continued its prosecution with untiring energy and perseverance. He had already formed an extensive acquaintance with the city merchants, which he turned to good account. His acknowledged probity, financial skill, and fidelity to trusts produced its legitimate effect in leaving a most favorable impression upon all who had occasion to transact business with him. Since that period this firm has undergone several changes, Mr. Clews meanwhile rapidly rising in public estimation. By the withdrawal and admission of partners, the styles of the firm have been as follows: Livermore, Clews & Mason; Livermore, Clews & Co., and subsequently it assumed its present form, Henry Clews & Co.

When the Rebellion broke out Mr. Clews was on the high road to fortune, and, with a forecast and sagacity remarkable in one of his years, he saw the golden opportunity and did not permit it to pass unimproved. Convinced that the government must become a large borrower, he aimed to distinguish himself in the negotiation of its loans, and to make his business chiefly that of dealing in government securities. Timid men were then wavering and disheartened; these securities were not popular, a general distrust prevailed, and almost universal gloom overspread society. Disaffected people stood entirely aloof, and even many loyal bankers were afraid to invest. Though not at that time a naturalized citizen,

Mr. Clews was one of the few bankers who showed unlimited confidence in the success of the government and the perpetuity of the Union. At this critical moment, his firm, with Messrs. Jay Cooke & Co., stood foremost in the negotiation of the immense loans of the Treasury. They had patriotism enough to convince them that the bonds of the government were good, and a degree of perseverance sufficient to infuse their own confidence into capitalists and the masses of the people. Notwithstanding the Treasury was absolutely empty, the public creditors clamoring for pay, and conservative bankers hesitating to employ their means in securities deemed risky and unpromising, the enthusiastic confidence of these firms, just rising into business life, surmounted all obstacles, and were at first the chief means of supplying the sinews of war. The country was flooded with circulars; the papers were filled with advertisements; and in addition to the ordinary methods of presenting the subject before the country, the bankers to whom reference is made added the weight of their personal solicitations. By this means many capitalists were induced to make investments in these securities, contrary to their own judgment. Subsequently, in conversation on the subject, Mr. Clews remarked, "I used to talk to men by the hour who doubted my predictions, and to some who sneered at my enthusiasm; but I felt that the government was right in the war, that the rebellion ought to be and would be subdued, and that the government's securities were good." The perilous situation to which the country was brought, and the strenuous and praiseworthy efforts by which the government credit was restored to a stable foundation, is not, perhaps, sufficiently understood. A gentleman, one day in conversation with Mr. Chase (then Secretary of the Treasury), congratulated him on the success of the "5-20" loan. He replied, "I deserve no credit; had it not been for the exertions of Jay Cooke, of Philadelphia, and Messrs. Livermore, Clews & Co., of New York, the loan would not have been taken." This was undoubtedly correct, and reflects the highest credit upon their sagacity and patriotism. The success of the Clews' firm in the



negotiation of the public loans at once gave confidence and character to the house, while it largely increased its capital. But Mr. Clews did not rest satisfied with his financial labors at this period, arduous as they were. In the public meetings of the day, and in measures designed for the support of the government, Mr. Clews and his firm bore a distinguished part. In the year 1864 the firm was subscribing to the national loan at the rate of five millions, and doing a business in government and other securities to the amount of fifteen millions, a day. After the close of the war, Mr. Clews directed his attention to the foundation of a distinctively banking business, though still retaining a valuable commission business in government bonds, stocks, and gold. With this view the terms of the copartnership were constructed in 1868, so as to prohibit stock speculations on account of the firm, or of any of its members; and the generally conservative character of the business of the house since, continues it in the highest rank of credit.

One of the earliest symptoms of the recovery of the country from the effects of the war was an extensive revival of railroad enterprises. The abundance of government revenues, though derived from onerous taxation, by enabling the government to redeem its public obligations to a considerable extent, has been causing the withdrawal of a large amount of securities, and creating an opening for investment in these enterprises. The extension of railroad facilities in the West and South has become a pressing necessity, and consequently large amounts of new investments of this character are brought into the market. These enterprises have varying degrees of merit, and as it is difficult for most investors to form an opinion of the value or soundness of any particular loan, they must necessarily rely, to a great extent, upon the honesty and reputation of the firms negotiating the securities.

Mr. Clews was prompt to avail himself of the flow of capital in this new direction, and in 1867, 1868, 1869, and 1870 was the most extensive negotiator of railroad loans in the United States and Europe, at the same time negotiating important loans on ac-

count of some of the States. In the fall of 1870, the firms of Henry Clews & Co., and Clews, Habicht & Co., London, were the bankers and financial agents for the States of Alabama and Georgia; the city of Brunswick, Georgia; Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Minnesota Railroad Co.; Alabama and Chattanooga Railroad Co.; Brunswick and Albany Railway Co., of Georgia; Selma, Marion, and Memphis Railroad Co.; Salem and Gulf Railroad Co.; Eufaula, Opelika, Oxford, and Guntersville Railroad Co.; East Alabama and Cincinnati Railroad Co.; Blue Ridge Railroad Co., of South Carolina; Wilmington, Charlotte, and Rutherford Railroad Co.; Western North Carolina (Eastern Division); Cartersville and Van Wert Railroad Co., of Georgia; The Burlington and Southwestern Railroad Co., of Iowa; Baltimore, Ohio, and Michigan Railroad Co.; The National Life Insurance Company, of New York.

The established reputation of the firm for sound judgment and strict integrity are a guaranty of the validity and value of the securities which they offer, and a pledge that all trusts will be executed with fidelity. These specialties do not in any manner interfere with the transaction of the ordinary banking business of the house, which is wider and more varied than that of any other house in the United States. The constant increase in the number of its dealers testifies to the satisfaction, accuracy, and courtesy with which its business is conducted.

Messrs. Henry Clews & Co. occupy the building adjoining the United States Sub-Treasury, and have one of the largest and most commodious offices in Wall Street. The banking business of the house is organized upon the most extensive scale, and every department is conducted on the soundest and most approved financial principles. In addition to the successful management of the trusts of some of the largest and heaviest corporations, its business with individuals is enormous. Some idea of the nature, variety, and extent of its transactions, and the advantages offered to dealers and depositors, may be inferred from the following brief

summary: Interest is allowed on all daily balances in currency or gold. Persons depositing with this house can check at sight through the Clearing-House in the same manner as with any of the city banks. Certificates of deposit are issued, payable on demand or at fixed date, bearing interest at current rates, and available at all moneyed centers. Advances are made to dealers at all times, on approved collaterals, at market rates of interest. All issues of government bonds are bought, sold, and exchanged, at current market prices; also coin and coupons. Orders are executed for the purchase and sale of gold and all first-class securities on commission. Gold banking accounts may be opened with the house upon the same conditions as currency accounts. Railroad, State, city, and other corporation loans are negotiated. Collections of notes, drafts, dividends, and coupons are made everywhere in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Sight or time bills of exchange are drawn, telegraphic transfers of money are made, and letters of credit are issued available in all parts of Europe through the London House recently established under the firm name of Clews, Habicht & Co. The facilities of this house for receiving frequent and rapid telegraphic news from London and all the great commercial cities of the Old World in reference to quotations of bonds, stocks, etc., exhibit enterprise of the highest order. The business done by this banking house amounts to millions of dollars daily.

In business and monetary circles the advice and opinions of Mr. Clews upon all questions relating to finance and the currency are esteemed of the highest value. He clearly foresaw the gold speculation of September, 1869, and the consequent derangement resulting therefrom, and in a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury forewarned him of the same, and suggested the proper course to be pursued. When it came, and all Wall Street was in a tremor of excitement, Mr. Clews was calm and collected as usual, and the business of his house was transacted with order and regularity. He had a clear insight into the nature and extent of the panic, and re-

marked that it was not the result of a generally unsound condition of affairs, but of circumstances strictly confined to the stock and gold markets. The communications from his pen, addressed to Secretaries McCulloch and Boutwell, are distinguished for great vigor and grasp of thought, and events have afforded a remarkable verification of the accuracy of his predictions and the soundness of his reasonings. Two years ago he suggested that the best way to settle the vexed question of consolidating the public debt was to authorize the conversion of all outstanding interest-bearing obligations into an interminable four and a-half or five per cent. stock, corresponding to the consols of the British government, the interest to be made payable in the coin of the United States.

In the 1870 canvass for the New York City election, Mr. Henry Clews was tendered, by the Republican Convention, the nomination for Mayor, but owing to the pressure of business and other duties, he was compelled to decline. He never mingled actively in politics, but was a firm, constant, and valued supporter of the government during the war. Though averse to appearing in public, he takes an enlarged and national view of public affairs, and has always been an active worker on committees, and liberal in his donations to meritorious objects.

At the dinner to Señor Romero, the Mexican minister, 20th of March, 1864, at Delmonico's, he expressed the belief, "that public opinion in this country will not submit to the encroachment of foreign powers upon any portion of this continent; and that European nations will best promote the welfare of their own people by carefully abstaining from all interference with the declared will of those who dwell here." Mr. Clews was a liberal contributor to the Rawlins fund and also to the fund for the relief of the family of the late Secretary Stanton. He is a vice-president of the Peabody monument fund, and one of the executive committee of the Union League Club. He is treasurer of the American Geographical and Statistical Society; also treasurer of the famous annual "Charity Ball."



Mr. Clews is unmarried, and very simple in his habits and style of living. He possesses those personal traits and that genial disposition which always render him a popular and welcome guest in the best circles, and his entertainments, when given, are in the most liberal and tasteful style. His characteristics are energy, caution, shrewdness, clearness of judgment, and incessant application. He has a good share of *bonhomie*, and a vein of genuine humor.

Doubtless Mr. Clews is the most prominent business man of his years in the city. Ordinarily, the creation of a great banking business is the work of a life-time. He has founded a first-class banking house in New York as well as in London, with the most extensive ramifications, within the short space of ten years—a remarkable achievement, which, better than any words, reflects the character and qualifications of the architect.

*The New York Mercantile Journal*, in its issue of a recent date, pays Mr. Clews a high and well-deserved tribute. It is with pleasure that we append the closing paragraph of the eulogy pronounced upon him by that journal. We quote:—

"Still in the prime of manhood, Mr. Clews stands upon an eminence to which few others have been able to climb. Behind and around him lie, beautifully ordered, the evidences of untiring exertions that have sustained and extended the welfare of the country, and filled his own coffers with well-earned rewards. The future brightens at his feet, full of noble opportunities. Who can doubt that the after-career of so gifted and valued a citizen will reflect still fairer honor upon the name of the American merchant, and the estimate in which the world shall hold the characteristic type of the American gentleman?"



## W. C. ALLISON.

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M. C. ALLISON, the subject of the following sketch, may be justly termed a self-made man. He was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in the year 1817, and is of Quaker parentage. At the early age of six years he lost his father by death, and ten years later his only surviving parent died; thus leaving him solely dependent upon his own resources, aided only by his indomitable application and perseverance, for his successful advancement to the honorable position he now occupies in the mercantile and mechanical world. In the year 1836, being then only nineteen years of age, he commenced on his own account the business of wheelwright and wagon-builder in Philadelphia.

At the first glance this would seem to have been a very inopportune moment in which to launch his efforts on the sea of business, for the mercantile community must well remember the disastrous five years that followed the crisis of 1837, and the extremely depressed and unsettled condition of the general business community. This very depression, however, was well calculated to develop qualities necessary for success, and Mr. Allison's failure in business, in 1841, may be said to have been a blessing in disguise, bringing out, as it did, the latent strength and capacity of his nature, although it left him penniless and in debt.

He did not long remain idle, but recommenced with the determined energy which is one of his marked characteristics, and in a few years was enabled to fit up his shops with improved wood-working machinery, and contract for supplying the cars needed by the railroad companies centering in Philadelphia. During this interval, he also accomplished the cherished object of paying off

the indebtedness due to his old creditors by the failure in 1841, and thus gave evidence of the sterling quality of honesty that has ever actuated him in his business pursuits.

The completion of the Pennsylvania Railroad gave an enlarged field over which to operate, and in 1851 Mr. Allison formed a business connection with Mr. John Murphy. The new firm built extensive shops on Market Street, west of Schuylkill Fourth Street, where their increased facilities found ample patronage, and the excellence of their products gained them a high reputation for superiority of workmanship. In 1856 they purchased what is now the "Girard Tube Works," and commenced the manufacture of pipes for gas, water, and steam purposes, in addition to their former business. This product, also, soon gained a high reputation for excellence, and the demand so largely increased that they were compelled to enlarge their buildings and increase their facilities for production.

May, 1863, saw the car-works on Market Street entirely destroyed by fire; but the energy so often displayed before stood in good stead then, and in less than two weeks after the conflagration a building was procured and fitted up, and the employes of the firm were at work in it, rapidly completing their unfinished contracts; and a site was purchased on which was erected the extensive works now occupied by the present firm, and known as "The Junction Car Works and Flue Mill."

The late civil war gave a marked impetus to all kinds of manufactures, and created an immense demand for machinery to increase the production of materials, and also to facilitate their transportation over the various sections of the country. Mr. Allison's shrewd business perceptions early conceived the necessity of another establishment in this country for the manufacture of lap-welded iron tubes for steam-boilers, and he therefore proceeded to adapt one of the buildings in the new works to this special purpose. While engaged in this enterprize, and before its completion, he lost his partner, Mr. Murphy, who died November 28, 1866, and

whose interest in the works in West Philadelphia Mr. Allison afterwards purchased from the heirs. In the following April the machinery was sufficiently completed, and the manufacture of lap-welded iron boilers and other tubes was commenced. The excellence of the product, and the liberal manner in which the business has been conducted, have attracted a large patronage, which is rapidly increasing, and which bids fair to place the establishment in the foremost rank of the industrial works of Philadelphia.

In July, 1868, Mr. Allison associated with him in the business his two sons, forming the present firm of W. C. Allison & Sons. Their property, "The Junction Car Works and Flue Mill," comprises ten acres of ground, about one half of which is covered with buildings. The grounds are eligibly situated between the tracks of the West Chester & Philadelphia and the Junction railroads, by means of which goods are received from, and shipped over, all of the railroads centering in Philadelphia; the works being connected by private sidings and turnouts with the main tracks of each of the roads named.

The buildings are admirably adapted to the wants of the business, having been especially constructed with a view to obviate the necessity of any useless carrying of articles to and fro during the process of manufacture. Miles of railroad tracks cover the grounds, and over one hundred small cars, manufactured for the purpose, receive and carry the unmanufactured materials to the various shops and machines, and a locomotive, the property of the firm, is constantly employed in moving the enormous quantity of stock received and articles delivered from the works. About 20,000 tons of coal are annually consumed in driving the machinery and heating the iron worked in the flue-mill and smith shops, and over 12,000 tons of bar and plate iron, 5,000 tons of castings, and 10,000,000 feet of lumber, are worked in the products of the firm yearly. To make these vast quantities of materials ready for the market requires the labor of about seven hundred men, and the

business of the firm will annually reach the enormous sum of 2,000,000 dollars.

Mr. Allison, in personal appearance, is of medium height, has keen, gray eyes, of fair complexion, and an intellectual cast of countenance. He is a warm friend and counselor to struggling young men, and his means have often been diverted to the purpose of relieving their necessities. Amid the constant anxieties incidental to the control of his large and increasing business, he yet finds ample time in which to devote himself to unostentatious charity.







Geo. H. Epworth.

## REV. GEORGE H. HEPWORTH.

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THE most crowded audiences in any Protestant place of worship in New York City are to be found at present at the Church of the Messiah, corner of Thirty-fourth Street and Park Avenue, and one of the most popular clergymen in New York is the subject of the present sketch, if we may judge from the interest he has excited of late in the community. Chapin and Henry Ward Beecher are, perhaps, the only divines who attract more people to hear them. Every seat in his church is occupied, and camp-stools have to be placed in the aisles and other places to supply room for those who wish to attend the services. If this were any sudden or temporary excitement over a new preacher, we should not give much significance to the fact, but taken in connection with Mr. Hepworth's previous success in Boston, and growing powers, it deserves attention, and we do not hesitate to say that New York has received an important addition to her clergy in this young New Englander.

Mr. Hepworth was born in Boston, Massachusetts, February 4, 1833. He is of French descent, on his mother's side, and some of his ancestors met the fate of the popular leaders in the French Revolution. Two of them were guillotined in Paris during Robespierre's Reign of Terror. The rest of the family were utterly ruined financially by the confiscation of a large property. The ancestor from whom Mr. Hepworth is descended narrowly escaped death at the hands of the excited mob, was compelled to leave Paris, and died in London.

If it is true that our life-work is ever decided before we are born, the law certainly applies in this case. It was the earnest wish of

the mother that one of her children should be a preacher. She was in many respects a remarkable woman, and would often ride a dozen miles of a cold winter night in order to hear some distinguished and eloquent minister. She gave the preacher's temperament to her son. In his earliest infancy, almost before he could speak plainly, he would mount his little chair for a pulpit, and deliver a boyish sermon. He never experienced that doubt as to what his profession should be which characterizes so many. From childhood he entertained the single purpose of becoming a preacher. He was a pupil of the Boston Latin School, and graduated from the Cambridge Divinity School in 1853. He was first settled over the Unitarian church in Nantucket, Massachusetts, in a community largely composed of Quakers, from whom he learned many valuable lessons. He remained here two years, and then returned to Cambridge and studied there for several months as a resident graduate. In December, 1858, a new society was organized among a few families in Boston, and Mr. Hepworth was invited to preside over it. The society, which adopted the name of the Church of the Unity, grew rapidly, and was soon able to erect a fine building in Newton Street, where audiences of fifteen hundred were frequently gathered to hear Mr. Hepworth preach.

At the outbreak of the war, and during the whole of the struggle for the preservation of our national liberties, Mr. Hepworth was enthusiastically loyal, and labored earnestly in behalf of the Northern cause. Not content with exerting himself in the pulpit and lyceum, and through the press, he joined General Banks' expedition in 1862, as an army chaplain, and remained at the South for a long period. He was soon appointed to a place on the General's staff with the supervision of the free-labor system in Louisiana. In this capacity he performed very valuable services to the country, and incurred the hatred of many of the planters, who more than once threatened his life. Their opprobrium and threats, however, were more than balanced by the gratitude and thanks of the freedmen, who found in Mr. Hepworth a tried and sure friend. Upon his

return North to resume his pastoral duties, Mr. Hepworth embodied his experience in a book, "The Whip, Hoe, and Sword," and also delivered a number of lectures before lyceums and other associations throughout the country, particularly during the Presidential election of 1864.

Mr. Hepworth's scheme of work in Boston was large and varied. His powers were all brought into play and he carried on many important enterprises. Everything he did was made subordinate to his preaching, and he has undertaken but little purely secular labor except lecturing.

Feeling sure that, as among the Methodists, a great many young men would gladly enter the sacred work of the ministry if they had the means to pay for an education, he founded, almost single-handed, a divinity school. It was a large enterprise and one destined to have a great influence on the body to which he belongs. During the first year he received into his school, called "The Boston School for the Ministry," about fourteen students. The clergymen of Boston generously volunteered their services as professors, and a work was begun much like that which Spurgeon is so successfully carrying on in London. At the end of the first year two students were ordained for the ministry. The movement so far increased that at the beginning of the second year it was found necessary to rent four houses for the proper accommodation of the school and the resident professor. Very nearly forty students entered upon the course of study. At this juncture the authorities at Cambridge made a proposition to so alter their charter that the same class of students could be received into the Divinity School. The proposition was accepted by Mr. Hepworth, who after putting into the Unitarian ministry about twenty ministers transferred his Middle and Junior classes—some sixteen students—to Harvard. Their success in the ministry amply proves that the plan as entertained by Mr. Hepworth was a valuable one.

In February, 1866, impressed with the idea that a large proportion of the population in great cities do not, for some reason or other,



attend upon pulpit ministrations in our churches, Mr. Hepworth conceived the idea of reaching this unchurched mass by preaching to them from the platform of the Theater. He was strongly opposed in the movement by nearly all of his best friends; but persisting in the project because he conceived it to be the only way in which to reach the masses, and backed by two gentlemen only, Mr. Wm. H. Baldwin, President of the Young Men's Christian Union, who has been his generous helper in all his movements, and Mr. D. W. Russel, he held his first service in the Boston Theater. It was a novel movement, and might have daunted any one. An exciting Sunday that was to all the friends of the project, while its opponents shook their heads, and pronounced it simply a castle in the air that would tumble down and bring ruin on its originator. At 7½ o'clock in the evening as many as five thousand people were crowded into the building, and hundreds went away unable to gain even standing room. Mr. Hepworth vindicated his foresight. Since then the experiment has been repeated in all the large cities on the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and always with a wonderful success. In Boston, services were held during the three winter months, and the success which attended them was so great that they have been continued ever since. In this way thousands of persons have been reached who would never have felt the power of religion but for these ministrations. The scores of letters which Mr. Hepworth received constantly from those who had been led from their bad ways to a better life amply testify to the exceedingly great value of the movement. The audiences were composed of respectable people, including many young men who had been repelled by the exclusiveness of the ordinary churches, and prevented from attending any religious service. Of all the clergymen who took part in this theater preaching, Mr. Hepworth was the most popular by far.

Mr. Hepworth continued to preach in Boston, after his return from the South, until last spring, when he received a call from the Church of the Messiah, in this city. The terms of this offer were so liberal and the opportunities for usefulness afforded by it were so



great that Mr. Hepworth accepted it and began to preach last October, with the result we have already described.

Mr. Hepworth exhibits the combined personal qualities of the French and English character. Through his mother he inherited the buoyancy and vivacity of the natives of *La Belle France*, while he also possesses the zeal and religious convictions of Puritan England. He has a rare magnetic power as a speaker, and the most commonplace truths assume a new force and significance when coming from his lips. He speaks with great impressiveness, not as a zealot and fanatic, but as one who has felt certain truths strongly, and wishes to induce others to believe in them. He has a remarkable power of attracting mixed audiences, such as those at Cooper Institute and Boston Theater meeting, and he seems especially gratified to be a preacher to the masses. His sermons are never abstruse and are always extemporaneous, so that the full effect of their admirable delivery is felt.

Mr. Hepworth has a grand future opening before him. The field is ripe for the harvest and awaits the hand of the reaper. No want is so severely felt in our time as that of free preaching of the best quality for the masses. We have plenty of churches for the wealthy and the well-to-do, but there are no Protestant places of worship which are thrown open, like the cathedrals of old, to rich and poor alike, with the exception of Trinity, St. Paul's, and St. John's. Our popular preachers have their churches in fashionable localities, far distant from the homes of the working people. Most of them maintain mission churches in the poorer quarters, but these are objectionable on many accounts. The true Christian faith is not represented by separate churches for upper and lower classes, but by single congregations in which both are united. Such was the Music Hall in Boston under the ministrations of Theodore Parker; such are Newman Hall's and Spurgeon's churches in London, and so also, to some extent, is Henry Ward Beecher's Plymouth Church.

Mr. Hepworth possesses many qualifications for conducting a church of this kind. He is personally attractive, and he holds peo-

ple by his magnetic power and earnestness. It is his desire to have a large, free, and middle-class society, with a building big enough to contain all who want to come, and he has already proposed to his congregation to sell their present expensive edifice and erect another more suitable for this purpose. What he wants is a cheerful, pleasant hall, with no "dim religious light," but plenty of warmth and sunshine, which will seat four or five thousand people, and can be used for secular purposes on week-day evenings. There is but little doubt that he could fill such a place without an effort.

New York stands ready with open arms to welcome such a preacher. His present audiences are not mainly composed of Unitarians, but the majority belong to other denominations, who have been attracted by the man and not by the name. This seems to be the general tendency of the age among the clergy, and it is in singular contrast to the present character of the press. Few persons are converted by the creed, but thousands follow the standard of a great leader. It is Beecher, Chapin, Hall, Adams, the Tyngs (father and son), Bellows, Ewer, and Crosby, who mold public opinion and inaugurate great enterprises. Others may be faithful pastors, practical workers, and useful preachers, and may found complete and lasting societies. It is the powerful and aggressive minds, however, who act upon what may be called the preacher's raw material—namely, the world at large—and enroll the latter beneath the banners of Christ. It is to this class that Mr. Hepworth belongs, and we anticipate fruitful results from his labors.

There is so much misunderstanding in the community concerning the faith commonly called Unitarian, that we transcribe from Mr. Hepworth's writings a brief synopsis of their peculiar dogmas:—

"The Unitarians do not essentially differ from the other sects of Christendom. First of all, and above all, we are distinctly a Christian sect. While we do not believe that Jesus Christ was God—and the only reason we have for not believing it is in the fact that Jesus constantly said that he was the son of God, and therefore not

God himself—we do believe that he is our Lord and Saviour, the divinely-inspired Teacher of the Word. We are constantly told by those who ought to know better, that we do not believe in Christ. Nothing can be more false. We claim that we more truly believe in him and in the authority of his mission than any other religious sect. We are sure that the scientific and Biblical criticism which marks our age, while it is gradually compelling other denominations to recede from many of their present positions as wholly untenable, will only add strength to us. Science is in sympathy with that idea of Christianity which is peculiar to Unitarianism. We look upon Jesus Christ as the miraculously-endowed, and only-begotten Son of God. We do not differ from any other religious sect in our estimate of his mission. But we do insist that, in spite of the traditions of any church, he is just and only what he said he was—the Door, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. I have no doubt there are thousands who attend so-called orthodox churches who believe just as we do on this subject, and I have good reason to believe that there are scores of ministers of other denominations who do not essentially differ from us in this respect.

“We believe, secondly, in the Fatherhood of God, and in this we are in perfect sympathy with Christendom, who, for the last half century, have been coming nearer to our position in this matter. God the avenging Power has, through a better appreciation of the scope and tendency of Christianity, given place to God our Father which art in Heaven. All men preach this now, and it is the ever-blessed force that is moving the world.

“In the third place, we believe that there is good in all men and all sects. Not a single denomination but has its mission and its place in God’s providence. Let me illustrate. A river flows through the plain. Away up yonder, on the right, it digs a channel through the rich, loamy soil, whose particles are taken up by the current, which is colored by them. Here, right in front of us, it flows through a bed of clay, and the impalpable particles tinge the water so that it looks like a different stream. Off there, on the

left, it makes its way through a stratum of fine sand, and again the earthy atoms give character to the water. Take three vials and fill them with the water in these three different localities, and put them side by side on the shelf. The casual observer, when he looks at them, says at once that they were taken out of three different rivers, whose geographical positions are widely apart. Not so, however. Wait for thirty minutes and let the water settle, and you find, to your surprise, that it is exactly alike in all three vials. Now, the residuum is what I call the ism of the church—here Episcopalianism, there Presbyterianism, and there again Universalism. The water in all sects comes from the River of Life. The sediment which colors it is some peculiar form of worship. The trouble in the religious world is, that so many of us think more of the coloring matter than of the water itself. In hot sectarian times we shake the vial, and then how very different we seem to be: at other times we let the waters settle, and then how very much alike we all are after all. We are closer to each other than any of us think. I take it that, in the great Judgment Day, the good Lord will not ask us what church we attended, but how much of his dear spirit we have had, and that will settle the whole matter."







Jay Gould

## JAY GOULD.

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LIKE the majority of the prominent men of this progressive age, Jay Gould is the architect of his own fortunes. He was born in the town of Roxbury, Delaware County, New York, on the 27th of May, 1836. The Goulds are of English descent. The American branch of the family was first planted in Fairfield, Connecticut, but at the close of the Revolution they were foremost among the hardy and adventurous pioneers who explored and opened the wilds of Delaware County. Mr. John B. Gould, the father of our great financier and railroad king, owned a small farm, which, despite his most strenuous exertions and careful management, only yielded sufficient income to support his somewhat numerous family in a style of severe simplicity. Born to the comparatively hard lot of a mountain farmer's son, we find Jay Gould today, in his 34th year, one of the wealthiest of our self-made millionaires, and one of the foremost figures in the honored ranks of our men of progress. And yet there is nothing of the marvelous in his career. Fortune did not favor him as she has favored others in her fantastic freaks; she merely rewarded him for untiring patience and indomitable energy. No Aladdin's lamp lit the path of our young adventurer. Rugged and steep was the road by which the poor farmer's son commenced his daring pilgrimage from the dark and dreary domain of poverty, to the bright regions illumined by the sun of prosperity, and, but for the remarkable tenacity of purpose which has ever characterized him, and the extraordinary abilities with which he is endowed, he could never have reached the splendid position he now occupies. In the story of Jay Gould's early struggles there is much to encourage such young men of talent as

are in the habit of considering poverty an insurmountable obstacle; and for the benefit of those who are too prone to despair at the first rebuff, we give the following leading incidents.

Gould was taught to make himself useful while yet a child, and developed an unquenchable thirst for knowledge at a very tender age. When a boy of twelve, he toiled through the day on his father's farm, and devoted his evenings and all the hours he could steal from the night, to the study of such educational works as he had been provided with. His elder sisters, young ladies of considerable culture, afforded the young student every aid, but the pupil was so apt and assiduous that he soon caught up with his teachers, and started alone on a higher course, his favorite study being mathematics. Young Gould was sent to the District school about this time, but so proficient had he become by his home education that he mastered the entire course at this institution within a few months. His thirst for knowledge increasing with his acquirements, the boy now importuned his parents to send him to a neighboring town to attend an academie school which had considerable reputation at that time, but his father objected, saying: "You are too young, my son; the money will be poorly invested. You shall go when you get older." The impatient boy could not understand how one can be too young to learn. Thoughtful and observant beyond his years, he finally arrived at the conclusion that, with such a numerous family to support, his father could not well spare the money necessary to maintain him at the academy. Here was the real difficulty, and to most boys it would have appeared insurmountable. "Where there is a will, there is a way," however, and as little Jay had a most indomitable will of his own, he very soon found out a way of assuaging his burning thirst for knowledge without putting his parents to any expense. Full of hope and ambition, the brave boy pondered over the many difficulties in the way of his acquiring a more extended education, and at last he formed the grand resolve that he could and would work his way through them. Immediately on forming this resolution, the boy presented himself to his father

and asked permission to leave home, undertaking to support himself while completing his education. Little dreaming how deliberately the boy had made up his mind, and how earnestly the request was made, the father, in view of the youngster's evident unfitness and strong disinclination for farm life, jokingly replied: "Certainly, my son, for you are good for little at home." Master Jay had long discovered that he was not intended for a farmer, and, taking his father's answer as serious, he returned joyful thanks for his freedom, and at once retired to his room and made preparation for his first start in life. The next morning the self-reliant boy hastily arose from the breakfast-table and amazed his father by holding out his hand and saying: "Good-bye." Now came the discovery that the boy was really in earnest. Tears and entreaties would not alter his resolution, but while he wept bitterly at the grief of his mother and sisters, he implored his father to let him go. The old man's heart was too full for him to speak, and, taking his silent wonderment for tacit consent, the boy embraced his relatives in turn, and, snatching up the little bundle he had prepared over-night, bounded across the threshold, and ere they had so far recovered from their surprise as to endeavor to recall him, he was out of sight.

Smiles, born of sanguine hopes of future success, soon dispelled the tears which welled at the anguish of parting from the loved ones at home, and our young adventurer struck out manfully on the road to fame and fortune, with a spare suit of clothes in his bundle, and fifty cents in his pocket. While footing it bravely through the wild, mountainous, and sparsely settled regions between Roxbury and Hobart, the seat of the academy he had so long desired to enter, little Jay felt sorrowful and joyful by turns; sorrowful, as he thought of the dangers and uncertainties which he knew he must contend with, and joyful when, in imaginary triumph over all obstacles, he was cheered with a prophetic glimpse of a bright and glittering career of fame and usefulness. With a heart palpitating with alternate hopes and fears, our hero arrived at Hobart, sought out the principal of the academy, and related his simple but touching story.



Deeply moved at the youth's earnestness and courage, the principal interested himself warmly in his behalf, and succeeded in procuring him employment as book-keeper in a store kept by the village blacksmith. This employment was at once a source of profit and instruction. Young Gould joyfully set to work, and soon mastered the intricacies of the worthy Vulcan's accounts, so that only a portion of his mornings and evenings were taken up with them and the balance of his time was spent in the Academy, and thus Jay Gould kept his word with his father, and supported himself while he completed his education.

Left entirely to his own resources, and ambitious to avail himself of all the advantages the Hobart Academy afforded to aspiring youth, little Jay devoted himself assiduously to his studies—adhering all the while to a most rigid system of industry and economy. At once a school-boy, and, by necessity, a man, he mingled little in the sports and pastimes of his companions; and, too proud to accept favors which he could not reciprocate, he never joined in their revels and festivities. The future Napoleon of railroads was as reserved with his classmates at Hobart as young Napoleon Bonaparte was with his comrades at the artillery school of Brienne. As a natural consequence of his close application, young Gould made such surprising progress in his studies that in little more than six months he passed through the prescribed course of instruction to the entire satisfaction of his tutors, and in a manner which fully repaid his kind patron, the principal, for the interest he had taken in his welfare.

Having thus triumphed in his first struggle in life, Jay Gould left school with increased confidence in himself, and boldly faced the next great obstacle in the way of progress—poverty. Leaving the service of the village blacksmith for more profitable employment in a hardware store, he still devoted his leisure hours to systematic study—his appetite for knowledge growing by what it fed upon. Already proficient in mathematics, he now turned his attention to the best works he could procure on surveying, trigonometry



etry, and engineering—progressing amazingly in the latter study. The only recreation he allowed himself was in the perusal of the pages of the great historians—in which profitable amusement he took intense delight. Gould is not tired of history yet ; his library is richly stored with standard works of this class, and he is seldom seen out of business without a volume of some favorite historical author before him, or within reach. In his new vocation, young Gould applied himself with such diligence as to give entire satisfaction, but scarcely a day passed, summer or winter, that he did not rise by four o'clock in the morning, and devote the intervening hours between that and the time appointed for the commencement of his daily labors to his books and slate.

Having determined to acquire a practical knowledge of surveying, he borrowed an old compass and a set of surveying implements, and, with the aid of the boys of the village, whom he induced by presents of toys of his own invention and manufacture to act as flag and chain bearers, he succeeded to his entire satisfaction.

While making these extraordinary efforts to increase his knowledge in his so-called leisure hours, young Gould applied himself to his business with such unusual industry and energy that his employer was never tired of praising him. Such was the confidence placed in the integrity and intelligence of the little prodigy that at the age of fifteen he was made a full partner, and shortly after this promotion, was intrusted with entire charge of the business, which under his skillful management largely increased. Visiting New York and Albany for the purpose of making purchases of hardware and material for his business, the young man made such a favorable impression upon those with whom he came in contact, that he was able to open an account with the well-known firm of Phelps, Dodge & Co. of the former, and Messrs. Rathbone & Co. and S. H. Ransom and other manufacturers of the latter city upon the best credits. Furnishing only a limited field for his active mind, the business in which he was engaged proved uncongenial to his tastes,

and accordingly, in the spring of 1852, he left his interest in the business to his father, who had sold out his farm, and engaged to take charge of a surveying party at a salary of \$20 per month. The hardware business requiring all his little capital, young Gould started on his first surveying expedition with only five dollars in his pocket. The object of the survey was the completion of a new map of Ulster County. The weather was bitterly cold when he started for the initial point, and not being able to afford the luxury of an overcoat, he footed it at the rate of forty miles a day in order to keep his blood in brisk circulation. Entering immediately upon the laborious duties of his new profession with the cheerfulness of one who has at length found a congenial occupation, the young surveyor progressed satisfactorily until his employer became suddenly embarrassed and unable to pay. But two ways remained to meet this unexpected calamity—to submit to a loss of his earnings—not a dollar of which had been drawn so far, or to go on and carry out the enterprise on his own account. Gould's decision was promptly taken. He resolved in connection with two others of the party, who were similarly situated, to adopt the latter course, and, nothing daunted by the magnitude of the undertaking, their misfortunes at the start, or the obstacles yet to be encountered, the enterprising trio went to work with a determination which deserved success. But alas! about this time Gould's capital had become grievously reduced by the purchase of a pair of shoes, a straw hat, and other necessities, and the day came when of the five dollars with which he started *but ten cents remained!* Yes, Jay Gould, the millionaire, can remember when ten cents was all the money he owned in the world. His first thought while in this dilemma was to return to Roxbury on foot, but then he remembered that he would want more than ten cents' worth of food while trudging over the long and dreary hundred miles between him and home. How Gould came out of this unpleasant predicament is best told in the words in which he himself related the story to the writer:—

"I was out of money, that is to say, all that I had at my command was a ten-cent piece, and with that last coin I had determined not to part. (I did not part with it, and I never shall. I keep it now as a memento.) Fall was approaching, and unless our surveys were completed before the winter set in, the completion of our enterprise would have been delayed until the next season, subjecting us to additional expense. This I saw would probably cause the abandonment of the enterprise, and I was determined to carry it through if possible. Had I had sufficient money to last me on a journey back to Delaware for fresh supplies, I could not have afforded the time. I was among entire strangers and consequently without credit. I could neither advance nor retreat without money, and so deeply did I deplore the prospective ruin of our enterprise, that I could not refrain from tears. When things are at the worst, however, they can only change for the better, and just when the clouds of my despair were thickest, Fortune came smiling through them. Tired out with my last day's tramp, hungry and dejected, I was resting in a rocky nook near the town of Shawaugunk, with my tears trickling down on the face of the compass, when I was suddenly hailed by one of the farmers of the neighborhood, who asked me to accompany him home and make him a noon-mark, which is a north and south line drawn so that the shadow of an upright object thrown on it indicates the time of mid-day. Arrived at the farm, I was invited to take dinner first, an invitation which I joyfully accepted, as I had supped on a couple of small crackers the previous night, and, although I had been hard at work since daylight, had eaten nothing else, and consequently felt exceedingly faint. After a hearty dinner I made the noon-mark and was about bidding the hospitable farmer "good day," when he asked what my charge was for the mark. I told him he was welcome to it, but he generously insisted on paying me half-a-dollar, assuring me that that was the price his neighbor had paid for one. I accepted the money and started on my way rejoicing. Had I that moment discovered a new continent I could not have been more elated, for with sixty cents in my pocket, and the prospect of making other noon-marks along the route, I could now see a way to carry my enterprise to a successful termination. I can never forget that day. From that time forward I prosecuted my labors with a light heart; the fame of my noon-marks preceded me; applications came in from the farmers all round, and out of this new source of supply I paid all the expenses of my surveys, and came out at the completion with six dollars in my pocket."

The labors of our young surveyor were crowned with the success he so richly deserved, and Gould's map of Ulster County was pronounced accurate in every detail, and consequently a very respectable sum was realized by its sale.

Encouraged by the progress he had made so far, young Gould determined to extend his sphere of operations, and with this end in view he sold out his interest in the Ulster County Map, disposed of his hardware business, and with what he then considered "plenty of money" at his command, started in search of "fresh fields and pastures new." While prospecting in Albany he became associated with the late John Delafield in an application to the State Legisla-

ture for aid in the completion of a topographical survey of the State of New York. Favorable progress was made, but before any thing material was accomplished Mr. Delafield died. With characteristic boldness Gould at once abandoned the idea of procuring legislative aid and decided to prosecute the enterprise upon a more limited scale and upon his own account. Commencing in the spring of 1853 Gould completed his survey of Albany County by the fall; during the ensuing winter he drafted out his surveys and produced a map which he sold on completion at a very handsome profit. During the summer of '53 Gould was employed by the Cohoes Company to survey and make a map of the village in which their manufactory is situate. This map netted him \$600. In the same year he surveyed and laid out the Albany and Niscayuna Plank Road. This was a task which presented great difficulties to the young surveyor, what with calculation of grades, excavations, and embankments, but he manfully mastered them all, and, completing his work to the entire satisfaction of the company, was liberally rewarded. The amount of hard work Gould accomplished in 1853 is almost incredible, and it may well be believed that he invariably rose at day-break, and seldom retired to rest before midnight. Returning to Albany about the end of winter, Gould amused himself perfecting his business arrangements and preparing his plan of campaign for the ensuing season.

Early in April he sent a company of surveyors into Delaware County, New York, for the purpose of taking surveys for a map of that locality. He also organized and dispatched similar expeditions for Lake and Geauga counties, Ohio, and Oakland County, Michigan. Gould's personal attention was given to the supervision of the drafting department, but he kept himself familiar with all the details of the business. Nothing escaped his notice. During the summer he usually traveled from point to point during the night and such was his power of endurance, that only a few hours of rest would fit him for the business of the day. He kept the most vigilant watch of his employees, never giving them the least notice of



his coming, and always made his appearance when least expected. Thanks to an iron constitution, and his wonderful powers of endurance, Gould not only accomplished the work he had mapped out for himself but was able to devote sixty days during the summer to the survey of a proposed railroad from Newburg to Syracuse. It must be remembered that by this time Gould had made himself a tolerably proficient engineer, most of his studies in this direction having been practical. The labors of the latter enterprise proved far more laborious than had been anticipated, but having undertaken the work he was determined to complete it. Gould paid dearly however for thus overtasking himself. At length he completed the last profile of the proposed road, drew up his detailed report and affixed his signature thereto, and an hour afterward he was prostrate with typhoid fever. For some time his recovery was despaired of. While slowly recovering he undertook to resume his labors on account of the accumulation of pressing engagements, and the result was an alarming relapse which was followed by violent inflammation of the lungs. These successive fits of sickness compelled Mr. Gould to curtail his operations for a time and he accordingly entered into negotiations which resulted in the sale of his interest in the Ohio and Michigan surveys. He also sold his map of Delaware County, the publisher of the Albany map being the purchaser. Gould recovered slowly from the severe shock his constitution had received, but during his convalescence his active mind compelled him to engage in some occupation which would amuse him until his bodily strength returned. While traversing Delaware County on his surveying expedition Gould had collected all the data he could obtain as to the history of the different localities, and, while invalided, he set to work on his notes and recollections and shortly afterward published his *History of Delaware County*—an exceedingly well-written and highly interesting volume of some four hundred and fifty pages. He was engaged in preparing similar works on Greene, Ulster, and Sullivan counties, but health and vigor returning he laid down his pen, and again busily engaged himself sur-



veying and engineering. While thus engaged his attention was accidentally directed to the business of tanning, and, studying the details, he concluded that it was more profitable than the work he was engaged in, and finally decided to make a venture in that line. He accordingly set out on a tour for the purpose of discovering a good location, and, at the expiration of several months during which time he traversed the favorite tanning regions of New York and Pennsylvania, he was finally attracted to the extensive forests in the counties of Luzerne and Monroe, Pennsylvania. These forests, which are filled with hemlock affording a superior quality of bark for tanning, had just been rendered accessible by the opening of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad. On examining this region Gould was satisfied that no better location could be found, and he at once made a reconnoissance survey, effected extensive purchases of land upon the Lehigh, bordering upon the counties of Luzerne and Monroe, and fixed upon a site for the settlement he proposed to found. Having completed these arrangements, our young pioneer returned to New York and laid his plans before the Hon. Zadock Pratt, of Prattsville, the well-known tanner. Pratt was so well pleased with Gould's enterprise that he at once started to examine the location. The result was that he approved of every thing and work was immediately commenced by the subsequently well-known firm of Pratt & Gould.

Having perfected his arrangements with Pratt, Mr. Gould returned to New York State, purchased teams, wagons, and the necessary tools and materials for clearing the forest and founding a town; engaged skillful mechanics and laborers, and shipped them forward. Then taking a more rapid conveyance he preceded them and made his final surveys and preparations. Some idea may be formed of the energy and ability Gould displayed in this new enterprise by the fact that within one hundred days from the time the first tree was felled his tannery was in full operation. As a compliment to his young and energetic partner Mr. Pratt christened the new settlement Gouldsboro. The tannery in active operation, Gould turned

his attention to the construction of a good road connecting his thriving and rapidly growing settlement with the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad. Having been appointed postmaster, Gould then made application to Congress and procured the passage of an act establishing a daily stage. Shortly afterward a company was organized under the name of the Delaware and Lehigh Plank Road Company of which Mr. Gould was unanimously chosen president. Having procured a favorable charter, Gould at once commenced the construction of the road. The work was prosecuted vigorously all through, and the road was completed at a cost of \$25,000.

Remembering the circumstances under which he first left his father's humble home the founder of Gouldsboro established and maintained a school at his own expense. Remembering in the first days of his prosperity the power which had sustained him in adversity Gould gave a suitable lot and liberally subscribed for the erection of a church.

In the early part of 1857 Mr. Gould took an active part in the establishment of the Stroudsburg Bank, and was for some time the largest stockholder. Here he commenced his career as a financier. He was acknowledged to be one of the most able and industrious members of the board of directors, and, his influence prevailing with the administration, the institution went through the disastrous panic which destroyed so many older banks without suspending. The foresight and judgment of our young financier also maintained the credit of Pratt & Gould throughout the terrible panic of 1857 while other firms engaged in the tanning business were utterly overwhelmed by their losses. In 1859 Gould bought out Mr. Pratt's interest in the Gouldsboro property, and shortly afterward associated with him Messrs. Chas. M. Leupp & Co., one of the oldest and most respectable firms in the trade—selling them an interest in the establishment for eighty thousand dollars. The sudden death of Mr. Chas. M. Leupp, which occurred in October, 1859, rendering a settlement of his estate necessary, Mr. Gould was compelled at

great loss to cancel very important arrangements for the extension of the business. This interruption was rendered still more serious by misunderstandings with the surviving partner of Leupp & Co., and about this time the complete stagnation in the trade necessitated the closing of the tannery. The trade reviving, however, Mr. Gould, now sole manager and proprietor, re-opened the establishment and was soon employing about two hundred and fifty men and manufacturing a million and a half of pounds of sole leather annually.

While engaged as a surveyor and engineer Mr. Gould had eagerly availed himself of every opportunity for familiarizing himself with railroad matters. Thoroughly acquainted with the geography of the country, possessed of valuable information as to its agricultural capabilities and mineral wealth, he took the deepest interest in all enterprises for facilitating communication between the different sections, and longed to connect himself with some kindred spirits who would aid in carrying out the grand schemes he had formed. Not being able to find the men he wanted, Gould made up his mind to start on his own resources. About this time the opportunity he had so long desired suddenly presented itself. The shock occasioned by the celebrated Schuyler frauds having caused railroad securities to decline to a nominal figure, the far-seeing Gould invested the bulk of his capital and every dollar that he could borrow besides, and secured for himself the control of the mortgage bonds of the Rutland and Washington, and Troy and Rutland railroads. This daring speculation proved profitable beyond his most sanguine expectations, and in less than two years from the time he assumed control Mr. Gould succeeded in extricating the roads from their pecuniary embarrassments and consolidating them with the Saratoga, Whitehall, and Rensselaer Railroad, under the latter title.

Jay Gould closed his connection with the Saratoga, Whitehall, and Rensselaer Railroad Company for the purpose of embarking his fortunes in the Erie Railway, and at this time he was the only man who believed in the possibility of saving that magnificent prop-

erty from bankruptcy and ruin. Gould had bought the bonds and stock of the roads he had consolidated with the Saratoga, Whitehall, and Rensselaer at ten cents on the dollar, and had, by his skillful management and able financiering, worked them up above par, and made the road one of the most prosperous in the State; and he was confident that with honest, economical, and, withal, enterprising management the Erie road could be extricated from its pecuniary and other difficulties and made the principal business thoroughfare of the continent. Gould's first opponents in the good work of improving the condition and restoring the prosperity of the Erie Railway were Drew and Vanderbilt, who suffered a complete defeat at the hands of the young reformer. The new administration elected on Gould's ticket, with John S. Eldridge as president, did not fulfill expectations, however. Eldridge subsequently resigned, and Gould was finally persuaded to accept the presidency of the corporation.

The history of the Erie corporation under the present able management is too well known to be narrated here; all that need be said on this head is that President Gould and his associates have not only succeeded in rescuing the road from ruin, but they have established its independence on an enduring basis, and made it at once the greatest and best line in the country. And now that the reader knows enough of the history of Jay Gould to be able to form an opinion of this remarkable man he will doubtless share in the growing belief that there is a glorious future for the Erie Railway, notwithstanding the many difficulties its enterprising management has yet to overcome. As to the subject of our sketch, it only remains to be said that if his astounding progress in the past may be taken as an augury of future success there is no position in the country to which he may not aspire.









Mrs. John  
L. G. Hadden

## JOSIAH G. HOLLAND,

(TIMOTHY TITCOMB.)

BY S. R. WELLS.



JOSIAH GILBERT HOLLAND was born in Belchertown, Hampshire County, Mass., July 24, 1819. His father was a machinist and inventor, a man of singular simplicity and purity of character, whose virtues his son has celebrated in a poem entitled "Daniel Gray," published several years ago in the *Atlantic Monthly*. Owing to an entire failure of health while fitting for college, he was obliged to relinquish an academic course; and when twenty-one years old he entered the office of Drs. Barrett and Thompson, of Northampton, as a student of medicine. He was graduated as a doctor of medicine at the Berkshire Medical College in 1844, and immediately thereafter selected Springfield as the theater of his professional practice. He associated for a time with Dr. Charles Bailey, a classmate, and afterward with Dr. Charles Robinson, also a classmate. (Dr. Robinson will be recognized as the recent Governor of Kansas.) After a three years' experience Dr. Holland gave up his profession and entered upon a more congenial line of life, literature, to which all his natural tastes led him. While preparing for this new field he became teacher in a private school in Richmond, Va., and while thus engaged, was chosen superintendent of the public schools of the city of Vicksburg, in Mississippi. This office he accepted, and satisfactorily discharged its duties for a year and a quarter, when events of a domestic nature called him back to Massachusetts. On his arrival at his Springfield home he was induced to accept a position, then vacant, in the office of the Springfield *Republican*. Here, associated with Samuel Bowles, he entered

upon his first hard work as editor. The earlier years of this connection were years of severe labor, the two young men doing the entire editorial work of the establishment.

Two years after entering the office he became joint proprietor, and continued his interest in the business throughout the entire period which was occupied in raising the concern to its present magnitude and prosperity. In 1866 Dr. Holland withdrew from the management. Besides his editorial writings and occasional contributions to prominent magazines and other periodicals, he has given to the world several volumes of superior merit. His first book was "The History of Western Massachusetts," written for his paper, and subsequently published in two volumes. This work has much local value, and involved an incredible amount of drudgery. Then followed a novel, also written for the paper, and afterward published by Putnam, entitled "The Bay Path." Subsequently he produced "Bitter Sweet," a poem which has been generally admired; "The Titcomb Letters," an exceedingly pleasant volume; "Gold Foil," a series of essays; "Miss Gilbert's Career," a novel; "Lessons of Life;" "Letters to the Joneses;" "Plain Talks on Familiar Subjects;" and "Kathrina," a poem of unusual sweetness.

All Dr. Holland's writings have been received with general favor—their refined, didactic, yet humorous character being nicely adapted to the taste of educated American society. Of "Kathrina" the publishers sold 40,000 copies during the first six months—an extraordinary sale for an American volume of poetry. The following extracts will give our readers who have not seen the work some idea of its character. In Part II., where Kathrina is seen confessing her faith and receiving the sacrament of baptism, it reads:—

"All this scene

I saw through blinding tears. The poetry  
That like a soft aureola embraced  
Within its scope those two contrasted forms;  
The eager observation and the hush  
That reigned through all the house; the breathless spell  
Of sweet solemnity and tender awe  
Which held all hearts when she, The Beautiful,

Received the sign of marriage to The Good,  
 O'erwhelmed me, and I wept. Shall I confess  
 That in the struggle to repress my tears  
 And hold my swelling heart, I grudged her gift,  
 And felt that, by the measure she had risen,  
 She had put space between herself and me,  
 And quenched my hope."

In Part III, we read :—

"Strange, how a man may carry in his heart,  
 From year to year,—through all his life, indeed,—  
 A truth, or a conviction which shall be  
 No more a part of it, and no more worth  
 Than to his flask the cork that slips within!  
 Of this he learns by sourness of his wine,  
 Or muddle of its color; by the bits  
 That vex his lip while drinking; but he feels  
 No impulse in his hand to draw it forth,  
 And bid it crown and keep the draught it spoils."

The poem thus abounds in richly molded gems of sentiment and philosophy.

Dr. Holland married, at twenty-six, Elizabeth L. Chapin, of Springfield—the Elizabeth to whom he dedicates "Kathrina"—has three children, two daughters just entering upon womanhood, and a son who is but a boy. His residence, known in the Connecticut Valley as Brightwood, is located among the trees, a mile and a half north of the Springfield Railroad depot, and overlooks the river and the meadows. Here the summer finds him and holds him; but the winter calls him to all parts of the country as a lecturer. He has now (June, 1870), with his family, just returned from a residence of two years in Europe.

Dr. Holland has a very finely organized body and brain. He is not large or heavily built, but of good size, well-proportioned, above the medium height, and as lithe and springy as a race-horse. His whole *personnel* gives the appearance of a clear thinker, a sharp observer, a man of intense feeling, quickness, ease, and accuracy of motion, and one whose thoughts, sentiments, and susceptibilities are fine and high toned. His features are prominent and well defined,



indicating positiveness of character, quickness of perception, intensity of thought and emotion, and a practical, wide-awake intellect.

His brain, of the same quality, of course, as his body, works easily and rapidly; sometimes, perhaps, too intensely for health and endurance; but for a man of his susceptibility, he is rather remarkable for toughness and endurance.

The lower part of his forehead is particularly sharp and prominent, the perceptive organs, as a whole, being large. That squareness at the outer angle of the eyebrow evinces precision, method, system. That sharp ridge running up from the root of the nose to the hair, indicates memory of facts, power of analysis, criticism, discrimination, and, joined with his large language, the power of description. He has a prominent development of the quality that reads human character; not only the ability to judge of character at sight, to form an impression favorable or adverse to the person whom he meets, but the power to enter into the intricacies and sympathies of human nature, and to describe such characteristics as he perceives in persons, or conceives to be possible, through his own consciousness; hence his graphic pictures of disposition and of thought are remarkable.

The central line of the head from the root of the nose over the top to the back of the head is high and prominent, indicating the qualities we have named, and also sympathy for suffering, reverence for truth, goodness, and greatness; self-reliance, determination, will-power, independence, positiveness, and self-esteem, or the love of individual liberty and power. He loves children, and home, and woman. Has a passionate friendship, which enables him to win associates and hold them for life. He has a quick, polished imagination; but he does not allow it to cut loose from practical life, or from the realm of common sense, which tends to regulate and guide it. His imagination is not like a balloon that goes careering whithersoever it will. It is more like a steamer, obeying the will of the pilot; or like a locomotive, which is governed by definite laws and regulated by the will of its engineer.

There is in this organization a great deal of the historical and the descriptive, something of the didactic, and considerable of the metaphysical blended with the imaginative, sympathetic, and practical. He can write for common-sense people; is able to reach the realm of their every-day life, and of their common sympathies; and through these qualities to lead them up as they are able to go with him. In his writings, and especially in his lectures, there is a point-blank earnestness, vividness, and brilliancy which enables him to please while he instructs. His early life was a struggle with poverty, and like all such struggles on the part of men of genius, it was marked with many and peculiar changes. His later years have been abundant with the fruitage of successes bravely and meritoriously won.



## REV. SAMUEL D. BURCHARD, D.D.

BY REV. W. A. MASKER.



THE subject of this article is of New England origin. His parents, after the birth of twelve children, removed to the town of Steuben, Oneida County, in the State of New York, where they purchased the Baron Steuben farm, upon which he had lived and died, and where his honored remains now lie. Here, in 1812, Samuel D. Burchard was born. From the circumstances of his birth and boyhood, his career is associated with patriotic, and in some respects romantic, recollections. In the town there were living many natives of Wales, and in his association with them he early acquired their language, which he spoke with ease and fluency, and he has not entirely forgotten it. His parents were godly people, who could not suffer their offspring to grow up in ignorance of the great truths which they believed. His early training, therefore, was religious, and the result of it is apparent in his entire character. There is nothing very remarkable in the history of his youth, beyond the fact that he was of an exceedingly delicate physical organization, and greatly afflicted with asthma. In the ordinary sense of the term he had no boyhood, but seemed to pass by a single step from childhood to maturity. In his earliest years he was meditative and studious, and his future life was mirrored by its beginning. In those days the idea prevailed that the feeble and delicate one of the family must become the student, while the strong ones must work. Whatever results may follow in exceptional cases, the theory is entirely wrong. As a rule it is useless to expect much intellectual power and development in a greatly enfeebled body. There may be a good beginning, with promise of unbounded success; but in

ordinary cases the frail tenement will perish under the pressure of arduous and long-continued mental toil. Dr. Burchard has been a notable exception. He made an early profession of religion and united with the Presbyterian Church. Developing physically and mentally, at the age of sixteen he assumed charge of a large country district-school, which he taught with success. At the age of seventeen an incident occurred to give shape to his whole character, as often the apparently least important circumstance will decide a man's entire future. He had given up teaching, and was studying the languages preparatory to entering college; and while returning from one of his recitations was overtaken by a wagoner, who, perceiving his infirmity, said in a generous and playful tone :

"Young man, you seem to have the heaves very badly."

"I have," was the answer.

"Well, get up into my wagon and ride with me," returned the good-natured countryman; which invitation being accepted, the teamster added :

"They say that a horse with the heaves can be cured by sending him beyond the Alleghanies, and I don't see why it will not have the same effect on a wheezing man."

This simple event decided the future of the youth. He adopted the suggestion, and in less than three weeks, with letters of commendation in his pocket, was on his way to Lexington, at that time a great journey; and upon his arrival was received with genuine Kentucky hospitality by the leading men of the place. He mingled freely with the people, and in a short time was well known as a young man of more than ordinary ability. The Right Rev. Bishop Smith, appreciating his talent and genius, sought his acquaintance and urged him to become identified with the Protestant Episcopal church, offering him the highest inducements; but he preferred to remain loyal to the Presbyterian church. His two-fold idea in going to that State was to teach and regain his health; but the Rev. Dr. Nathan Hall, who had become acquainted with him and had heard him address religious assemblages in language full of



peculiar power and eloquence, said to him that his proper sphere was in the pulpit—a conviction long entertained by himself—and, as he was quite frail in constitution and there seemed to be but little hope of his living beyond a few years, advised him to take a partial course of study, that he might have the more time to spend in his supposed short work in the ministry. At the suggestion of this good Christian friend he went to Danville and entered Centre College, determined, however, to pursue a full course, and during the first year supported himself by his own hands. He continued his public speaking, and friends flocked around him, attracted by his fervid eloquence.

About the end of his first college year he was invited to the home of the Rev. Dr. J. D. Paxton, then pastor of the Presbyterian church at Danville, where he remained as a guest and friend of the family until the appearance of the first cholera in 1832, which swept with desolating effect over the entire town, suspending the operations of the college, sending the students to their varied and distant homes, and numbering among its victims Mrs. Paxton, who had been everything to the young and devoted student that a mother and friend could be. This was a sad blow to him, and after the lapse of all the intervening years, he now never speaks of her but with the tenderest emotions. True to his convictions of duty and fearless of danger, he declined to leave, but remained, nursing the sick, administering medicine, speaking words of Christian cheer in the ears of the dying, shrouding their bodies for burial, and following, unattended by friend or mourner, their remains to the hastily-prepared grave. It could not be otherwise than that he should find a place in every heart. After this terrible scene of suffering on the one hand, and patient self-denial and fidelity on the other, the enthusiastic expressions of gratitude on the part of the people were unbounded, and they vied with each other for the privilege of giving him a home; and out of the numerous offers he accepted one with Mr. and Mrs. Youce, where he remained until leaving the State, being ever treated by them as their own child.

His reputation extended far and wide, and in almost every town in Kentucky he addressed vast audiences on the subject of religion, temperance, and human rights, and was everywhere received with the greatest enthusiasm. On one occasion several thousand people had assembled to hear him speak, his theme being temperance; but he found himself suffering so much from an attack of his old malady as to be unable apparently to say a word beyond making an apology; and rising to do this, the appearance of the immense concourse seemed to give him relief, and he proceeded, and spoke for three hours, making one of the best addresses of his life.

As an evidence of the people's regard for him, it may here be stated, that, after an absence of ten years, he returned to the State in company with his wife to spend a few weeks, and his welcome everywhere was a perfect ovation. Old men and women gathered around him and with glistening eyes referred to his early career in their midst, and those who had grown to maturity since his departure also came to pay their respects to one whose name was familiar in every household. In no place was he permitted to spend a farthing for his own entertainment or for that of his friends who accompanied him. Among the prominent men who welcomed him were Governor Letcher; Henry Clay, who always recognized their acquaintance, when visiting the East, by acts and expressions of kindness; Chief Justice Robinson, a man of splendid ability; Leslie Coombs; Governor Magoffin, a college-mate, and John C. Breckinridge, another, with whom he had the closest friendship. Besides this, all through his college course, after the first year, he was literally overwhelmed with presents of clothing, money, and tokens of kindness from known and unknown donors, so that he not only had sufficient for himself, but out of his surplus supported and paid the expenses of a young man in college with him through his entire course, and until his settlement in the ministry.

About the close of his junior year the trustees conceived the idea of sending one of their students to the East, for the purpose of securing a full or partial endowment for the college; and the Doc-

tor, having already given so many distinguished evidences of ability, was deemed the most appropriate person for the undertaking, and received the appointment; and in this mission was pre-eminently successful in bringing large resources to the institution, in greatly increasing its library, and in making himself widely and favorably known. After his return he received calls to some of the most prominent churches in different parts of the country, all of which he declined, preferring to pass the regular curriculum of collegiate and theological studies. He graduated with the highest honors, studied theology for two years with some of his fellow-graduates, thus constituting the germ of what has since developed into the Danville Theological Seminary; was then licensed to preach by the Transylvania Presbytery in 1838, and received a call to the Houston Street Presbyterian Church of New York City, which call he declined, designing to spend one year in Princeton Theological Seminary. He was overruled in this design by inducements to study in Union Seminary, then in its infancy, and during his attendance at that institution supplied the pulpit of the church to which he had been called. This, without his intention and against all his previous predilections and preferences for the West, resulted in his settlement in the city of New York. He commenced his labors in the autumn of 1838, the church being heavily laden with debt, its members being widely scattered, and divided in sympathy by reason of local causes, so that at the beginning the usual number of attendants would not exceed one hundred. In the course of a few months there were manifest tokens of the divine presence, the congregation increased, the house was crowded Sabbath after Sabbath, and the unanimous voice was that the Doctor must become the permanent pastor or the church would disband. As he had been the instrumental cause, under Providence, of awakening this new life in a dormant enterprise, he was constrained, under the pressure of circumstances, to be ordained, and was installed pastor on the first day of May, 1839, and the connection proved most happy and successful. The church became united, and there were added

to it, on profession of faith alone, over eight hundred members during the seven years that he ministered in that place. At the end of that time the church deemed it expedient to change their locality. Although this was their unanimous voice, the Presbytery intervened and decided that it would be unwise totally to abandon an enterprise which had been so successful in its previous history, and letters of dismission were granted to such as chose to go out as a colony, one hundred and eighty, together with the pastor, being organized into a new church, while the old one was supported in part by the Presbytery for a few years, when it was disbanded. Without the assistance which the colonists would have derived from the sale of the old property, a site was immediately procured, and an edifice costing thirty thousand dollars erected in Thirteenth Street, where the present building stands. Here the people worshipped, and the pastor's ministrations were successful, while the church debt was reduced to seven thousand dollars. Early in 1855 the edifice was entirely consumed by fire, together with the Doctor's valuable library, which he had spent years in gathering; but such was the spirit of the people, as acquired under his training, that while the fire was still raging a resolution was taken to rebuild the church in a more beautiful and substantial manner than before, and this was accordingly done; and by the first of May, 1864, the debt, which had increased to twenty-two thousand dollars, was entirely removed. It is safe to say that no church in the city has ever been more blest. Many precious revivals of religion have occurred, during one of which, in 1858-9, three hundred members were added; and during his ministry with this one people, Dr. Burchard has had the privilege of receiving over twenty-seven hundred members, more than fifteen hundred of whom being on the profession of their faith. He has many times received calls to leading churches, but no inducement would be sufficient to draw him away from his beloved and loving people.

During the year 1853, the formation of an internal abscess entirely prostrated him and threatened his life. The leading surgeons of



the country being consulted, were unanimous in the opinion that there was scarcely a hope of his recovery, as nothing but a most difficult and painful operation could save him, with even doubts as to his being able to survive that ordeal. Dr. Lewis A. Sayre, his warm personal friend, a most skillful and accomplished surgeon, undertook the case, Dr. Burchard having previously settled his worldly affairs and composed his mind for the emergency. After the fearful operation had proceeded for some time, the pulse of the patient ceased, and the surgeons in attendance pronounced life extinct. Mrs. Burchard, who was present, insisted, however, that her husband still lived, and, notwithstanding the repeated declaration that there was no hope, means were used to restore animation. What professional skill failed to do was done by the hopeful, watchful, and loving wife. She first discovered a faint flush on his cheek, and after a short time consciousness was restored. The operation was continued at intervals of a week, and successfully accomplished, so that in six months the Doctor was able to resume his pastoral duties. Both in Europe and in this country the case attracted much attention among the profession, and was considered one of the most remarkable on record. In token of appreciation of his services in performing the operation, a number of Dr. Burchard's parishioners and friends presented to Dr. Sayre a magnificent silver pitcher and salver, upon the acceptance of which he wrote one of the most touching letters ever penned, and paid therein a beautiful tribute to the man whose life he had by his skill been made instrumental in saving.

Dr. Burchard has twice visited Europe, the first occasion being before he had entirely recovered from the effects of the operation just mentioned, immediately after the burning and during the rebuilding of his church; the last time, accompanied by his wife, being in 1869, when he had become worn down by excessive ministerial labor. Both times he was sent by his people, his salary being continued and a liberal purse being given to defray his expenses. In his own words, he has been "caned, watched, and twice banished"



by his flock. He is a passionate lover of the fine arts, and, in his visits to the different galleries of the old world, viewed and studied, with an appreciation possessed by few, the works of the great masters, and he can readily distinguish, with the skill of a master himself, between the false and the genuine. He has devoted his time and talents mainly to his people, but has written quite largely for magazines and literary journals. Two volumes bear his name, "The Laurel Wreath," published in 1840, and "The Daughters of Zion," a handsome volume issued in 1853 and republished in England. From Madison University, a Baptist institution, he unexpectedly received his degree of D. D. while quite young in the ministry. His reputation had preceded him to Europe; and so striking and commanding is his personal appearance, that on his recent visit there he was singled out in an audience of four thousand persons, by Mr. Spurgeon, who had heard that he was in London and expected to be present that morning, in the parlors of whose church a warm welcome awaited him after the close of the service. He is chancellor of Ingham University, at Leroy, New York, and attends its Commencement annually without compensation. Although not personally supervising its labors through the year, he takes a deep interest in its welfare, and contributes largely to its success by his advice and counsel. He is also connected with the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, besides having a membership on the boards of many charitable and religious societies.

The following extract, from the first sermon preached by him after recovering from his great illness, will give some idea of his affectionate style in addressing his people, and of the ties by which he feels bound to them:—

"Oh! my brethren, it was everything to me when your sympathies were manifested in my recent affliction. Had you stood aloof in my terrible trial—had you left me without an expression of affection, I could not have survived. But nobly did you stand by your sick and suffering pastor; with importunate supplications did you besiege the throne of grace. True, you could not all be at my bedside, but your sympathies were there, and they were a sweet solace during all those weary months of

pain and languishment. There was no weariness nor flagging on your part; from the beginning to the end, I had the fullest assurance of love and confidence in your nightly watchings, in your prayers. To say, my beloved people, that I thank you for all this, is language too tame to express the grateful and swelling emotions of my heart. I more than thank you—my redeemed life is yours, pledged to be spent in your service, to do you good—to add to your moral patrimony in the kingdom of God. Will you accept the offering? I lay it freely at this altar—it is yours; my time, influence, talent, *all*, I desire to spend for your sake, that the Master may be honored, and you saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. I need not say I am bound to you by new ties of attachment. You have tested and proved yourselves worthy. . . . When the hand of disease was laid heavily upon me, when the house of my earthly tabernacle seemed ready to dissolve, impenitent men of this congregation stood willing to make any sacrifice, if they could but save me from a *temporal* death; and can I be less magnanimous and devoted in labors abundant to save them from an *eternal*? No, I *will* not, I *can not*. I will be your best friend, guarding your best interests with vestal fidelity.”

Dr. Burchard is a thorough scholar. He is a perfect master of the Greek, for which he has always had a passion. He is a close reasoner, logical in argument and sound in judgment, rarely being deceived in his estimate of men, but never harshly judging any, preferring rather to extend the cloak of Christian charity than to needlessly wound or injure. This element in his character has been the means of much good. He readily attaches himself to those who are associated with him, and men of all denominations cheerfully recognize his ability and sincerity, as well as the qualities of mind and heart that have ever endeared him to all coming within the circle of his influence. From the stripling of sixteen he has developed into a finely-formed, well-proportioned man, over six feet in height. His features are regular, and his countenance gives evidence of great thought and penetration. In the choice of a companion he was exceedingly fortunate, possessing a wife in every way suitable for a minister whose parishioners have been numbered by thousands. Five sons have been given to them, four of whom are living. In the world, the church, and the family, his life has been a constant benediction. Few men live who possess more devoted friends, and none who can more truly say that they are without an enemy. A complaint never passed his lips. He has not sought popularity, but rather avoided it. His style of preaching is clear,

logical, forcible, and eloquent, and he could never be tempted to introduce the sensational, which is usually pleasing to the irreligious church-goer.

The reasons for his success are obvious. Naturally gifted, he has never neglected an opportunity of adding to his store. He has learned lessons where others would have found but riddles. His ear has been open to every call, and his sympathies have never been withheld. He has been thoroughly devoted to his work, and has never enjoyed personal ease or comfort to the detriment of the people of his charge. Never censorious, he has adhered rigidly to all the cardinal doctrines of his faith. Above all, his sincere piety has made him a loving and successful worker in the vineyard of the Master. He is ever calm, hopeful, reliant, willing and anxious to work, desirous of being found with his whole armor on until the end of the conflict. There is no sign of decay, no weakening of his faculties ; and many souls may yet be saved, through his labors and prayers, to shine as stars in his crown of glory and rejoicing.

## J. S. NEWBERRY.

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PROFESSOR J. S. NEWBERRY, M. D., LL. D., was born at Windsor, Connecticut, of old Puritan stock, his ancestors having formed part of the colony which, in 1635, emigrated from Dorchester, Colony of Massachusetts Bay, and founded the town of Windsor, the first settlement in Connecticut.

The family continued to reside in Windsor for two hundred years, during which time it held an honorable place in that community, and contributed several representatives, who took an important part in the affairs of the State government, or in the defense of the colony against the Indians, and in the French and Indian, and Revolutionary wars. Dr. Newberry's grandfather, Hon. Roger Newberry, a distinguished lawyer, and for many years a member of the governor's council, was one of the directors of the Connecticut Land Company, which purchased a large part of the Connecticut Western Reserve. His son, Henry Newberry, inherited his interest in the land of the company, by which he became possessed of large tracts in various portions of northern Ohio. Looking after these interests, he made three journeys on horseback (the first in 1814) from Connecticut to Ohio, and, in 1824, removed his family to Summit County, where he founded the town of Cuyahoga Falls, remaining there until his death in 1854.

Dr. Newberry graduated at Western Reserve College in 1846, and from the Cleveland Medical College in 1848. The years 1849 and 1850 he spent in study and travel abroad. Returning at the close of the latter year, he established himself, early in 1851, in the practice of medicine in Cleveland. Here he remained until 1855, when his professional business became so engrossing as to



leave him no time for the scientific study to which he had been devoted from his boyhood. To escape from too great professional occupation, and impelled by an unconquerable passion for a scientific career, in May, 1855, he accepted an appointment from the War Department, and became connected with the army as acting assistant surgeon and geologist to the party which, under Lieutenant R. S. Williamson, U. S. A., made an exploration of the country lying between San Francisco and the Columbia River. The results of the expedition are embodied in volume VI., P. R. R. Reports. The reports of Dr. Newberry on the "Geology, Botany, and Zoology of North California and Oregon" are published in a volume of three hundred pages, quarto, with forty-eight plates. In 1857-8 he accompanied Lieutenant J. C. Ives, U. S. A., in the exploration and navigation of the Colorado River, one of the most interesting explorations made by any party in any country. The object of the expedition was to open a navigable route of communication with our army in Utah. To this end an iron steamer was constructed in Philadelphia, taken in sections to the head of the Gulf of California, where it was put together and launched. With this steamer, the river, before almost entirely unknown, was navigated for five hundred miles, opening a route of travel which has since been extensively used. Beyond the point reached by the steamer, the course of the river is for several hundreds of miles through the "Great Cañon," as it is called, a chasm worn by the stream in the table-lands of the "Colorado Plateau." This cañon has nearly vertical banks, and is nowhere less than three thousand feet deep, in some places six thousand feet, or more than a mile, in depth. -

The party with which Dr. Newberry was connected spent nearly a year in exploring the country bordering the Colorado, adding much to our knowledge of our western possessions, and giving, in their report, an interesting and graphic description of perhaps the most remarkable portion of the earth's surface. Half of the report of the Colorado expedition was prepared by Dr. Newberry, and so



much importance was attached to his observations by his commanding officer, that in the preface he speaks of them as constituting "the most interesting material gathered by the expedition."

In 1859, having finished his portion of the Colorado report, Dr. Newberry took charge of another party sent out by the War Department, to report to Captain J. N. Macomb, Topographical Engineer, U. S. A., for the exploration of the San Juan and upper Colorado rivers. The summer of 1859 was spent in the accomplishment of the object had in view by this expedition, during which time the party traveled over a large part of southern Colorado, Utah, northern Arizona, and New Mexico, filling up a wide space on our maps, and opening a great area before unknown, much of which proved rich and beautiful, abounding in mineral wealth, and full of natural objects of great interest. Among the results of this expedition were the determination of the point of junction of Grand and Green rivers, which unite to form the Colorado; the exploration of the valley of the San Juan, the largest tributary of the Colorado, a stream as large as the Connecticut, before almost unknown, but which, though now without an inhabitant upon its banks, is for several hundred miles lined with ruined towns or detached edifices built of stone, and once occupied by many thousands of semi-civilized people. The report of this expedition, made by Dr. Newberry, containing much new and interesting scientific matter, was finished just before the war, but yet remains unpublished.

Immediately after the commencement of the war, the United States Sanitary Commission was organized. Dr. Newberry was one of the first elected members, and it is, perhaps, not too much to say, that no other one individual contributed more to the great success that attended the labors of that organization. In September, 1861, he accepted the position of Secretary of the Western Department of the Sanitary Commission, and from that time had the general supervision of the affairs of the Commission in the valley of the Mississippi; his head-quarters being first at Cleveland, and subse-

quently, as the frontier was carried southward, at Louisville, Kentucky.

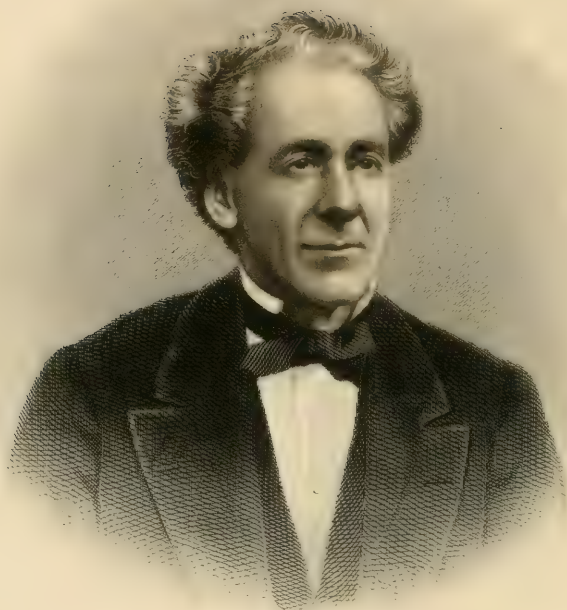
Through his efforts, branches of the Sanitary Commission were established in the principal cities of the West, and agencies for the production and distribution of supplies, and the care of sick and wounded on the battle-field, in hospital, or *in transitu*. The magnitude of the work of the Sanitary Commission at the West may be inferred from the fact that there were at one time over five thousand societies tributary to it in the loyal States of the Northwest; that hospital stores of the value of over \$5,000,000 were distributed by it in the valley of the Mississippi; that over 850,000 names were on the records of its Hospital Directory at Louisville, and 1,000,000 soldiers, for whom no other adequate provision was made, were fed and sheltered in its "Homes."

Of this great work Dr. Newberry was the responsible head, and to the wisdom and energy displayed by him very much of the harmony and efficiency which characterized this organization is to be ascribed.

As his labors with the Sanitary Commission were drawing to a close, Dr. Newberry was appointed Professor of Geology, in the School of Mines of Columbia College, New York City. He entered on the duties of the position in 1866. In 1869 he was appointed by Governor Hayes to the office of State Geologist, created by the Ohio General Assembly of that year.

The scientific acquirements of Professor Newberry have given him a world-wide fame. As a geologist, his reputation ranks among the foremost. He has been honored with the membership of most of the learned societies of this country, and of many in Europe; was one of the original corporators of the National Academy of Sciences; was recently elected President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and is now President of the New York Lyceum of Natural History.





Wm. L. Galt

## WILLIAM I. PEAKE.



LTHOUGH there is no titled nobility in this country yet no sooner does one rise to a conspicuous position than the question is asked, Who is he? Where did he come from? What are his antecedents? The feeling which prompts these questions seems inherent in our nature, and therefore we answer them.

The Peakes are of English descent, and the family can be traced back as far as 1284, to the reign of Edward I., and the conquest of Wales. In 1598, in the reign of Elizabeth, we find the grant of their coat of arms. Sir Robert Peake was with Charles I. in the battle of Naseby, and Major Thomas Peake in the cavalry service with Prince Rupert, nephew of the King. We find Sir William Peake Lord Mayor of London in 1668, and Sir John Peake filling that office in 1667. Though staunch loyalists and churchmen, they doubted the right of the king to rule in church as well as state, and becoming disgusted with the revolution, the younger members of the family began to emigrate to America.

Just before the French War in this country two brothers came out—one settled in the "Northern Neck," in Virginia, and the other in Woodstock, Conn. The Virginian was with Washington in Braddock's defeat, and continued with him all through the Revolution. The other, John Peake, went from Woodstock to Walpole, New Hampshire, before a grant of the town was obtained, with a view of occupying the meadow lands which the Indians had left. After his arrival he learned that the French war had begun. Trumbull, in his History of the Indian Wars,



speaks of the defence of a block house by John Peake and several others of the settlement against a force of 200 Indians, as "one of the most heroic and successful efforts of personal courage and valor recorded in the annals of Indian warfare." In this war he lost his life. His son, the grandfather of William I. Peake, entered the American army, was present at the capture of Burgoyne, and after peace was declared, settled in Chatham, Columbia County, New York.

In searching the annals of the family in this country, we find no member of it occupying an enviable niche in the political world; to use the words of an old Virginian of the family: "I have followed the name wherever it could be traced, and I have yet to find the first instance of crime charged against it, or an arraignment in a court of justice for violation of law. I have never known one ambitious of political fame, tyrannical, mean, or cowardly—none who ever lived by his wits. Only one office holder, Humphrey Peake, who was appointed Collector of Alexandria by Gen. Washington, and who held the office until the time of President Jackson. I think the great merit of which the family may honestly boast, is attending to their own affairs, and demanding that everybody else attend to theirs."

William I. Peake, the fifth of a family of twelve children, was born May 2d, 1817, in Ghent, Columbia County, N. Y., shortly after the removal of his father from Chatham. His father was a farmer, who brought up his children in habits of industry, to owe no man any thing, and to be scrupulously honest. His grandfather might have left more money to his children had he presented his claim to bounty lands and pensions; but when asked why he did not, replied: 'I am satisfied with my farm, and cannot understand why a man should be paid for doing his duty to his country any more than to his neighbor.'

William was always industrious, and when he was not in school, if he had not work enough at home, looked for it elsewhere. One winter he worked in a woolen factory near his home. At

another time he cut cord-wood for a neighbor before and after school hours, at fifty cents a cord, and earned enough to buy him a suit of clothes. Mr. Samuel Plumb, the wealthiest merchant in Hudson, N. Y., and doing the most business in the place, on a visit with his wife to Mr. Peake's father, and knowing the honesty and industry of William, said he must have that boy in his store.

Accordingly an agreement was made, and William, then in his sixteenth year, entered his employment. He was to have his board and twenty-five dollars the first year, and ten dollars more each succeeding year until he was twenty-one, when he was to have one hundred dollars. With this salary he clothed himself, and had a small sum left at the end of each year.

A characteristic incident may here be mentioned. As it was the shortest way from his home to the store, he was permitted to go through Mr. Plumb's nursery. The finest fruit and the most delicious peaches lay on the ground all along his path, but he never touched it. At length, one morning, Mr. Plumb, who, in all probability, had watched him every time he passed, threw open the blinds overlooking the path, and said: "William, thee can take and eat as much fruit as thee likes on thy way through the garden."

He was never known to run away from any one but once, and that was one evening returning from church. (He is a communicant of the Episcopal Church.) He was invited to walk in and congratulate an old bachelor, who had just been married; declining the invitation, they seized and pulled him in, determining to make him drink. Watching his opportunity, he started out of the back door, jumped the fence, and ran for home, where he stayed all night. They gave chase, but unable to overtake him, they turned back, and as they told him afterwards, knowing that he slept at the store, watched for him at the corner until midnight.

In 1839, he went into business with Thomas J. Weir, in Hudson, and at the end of three years they dissolved partnership, and he continued the business alone until 1843, when he removed to

Chatham Four Corners. There was only one store at that time in the place besides his; but within three years there were five, and as a sixth was to be opened, he sold out his to this last one, and made the tour of the northwestern States on business for several New York parties. It was during this trip that he resolved to make the city of New York his home.

In 1850, he obtained a situation with Messrs. Chittenden, Bliss & Co. as salesman, at a salary of \$500 per annum. When this firm dissolved and a new one formed, known as Geo. Bliss & Co., he went with the new firm. His integrity made him keep the interests of his employers constantly in view, and devote himself to the advancement of the house as much as if he had been at the head of it himself. The result was, he was offered a partnership, and accepted it.

This was the epoch in his life, which led to fortune. Uprightness, sobriety and industry, combined with skill and knowledge of his business, were the leading traits of his character. After twelve years, he withdrew from this firm, at his own request, a wealthy and respected merchant.

Kind, obliging, faithful and generous, his private life bears as fair a record as his public. Too active to retire from business, he formed the house of William I. Peake & Co., in 1866 (now Peake, Opdycke & Co.), which stands among the great importing and jobbing dry goods houses of America.

His success is not surprising to those who know him well, for he is one of the most upright, energetic, and at the same time conservative merchants on Manhattan Island. He is early and late at his post, exercising a close, personal supervision over every department of his large establishment.

By his affable manners, he gains the good will of all his numerous employees, as well as of his customers, who are found in every state in the Union, and in every territory except two.

Few men, in the dry goods trade of New York, are more widely known, or more highly esteemed than William I. Peake.

## JACOB VANDERPOEL.

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HIS prominent citizen of New York was born on the 19th day of June, 1812, in the Fourth Ward. He is descended from one of the oldest Knickerbocker families. His parents, however, were in humble circumstances pecuniarily, and hence his early education was extremely limited. He was apprenticed at an early age to John Budd, a cabinet-maker, on Fulton Street, near the old North Dutch Church, who proved to be a severe master; and before the termination of the indentures, and at the age of twenty years, young Vanderpoel succeeded in purchasing the remainder of his time, and from that time tried the world for good or ill on his own account. Endowed by nature with strong common sense and a keen perception, the years of his apprenticeship had not been thrown away; and from observation his mind had become somewhat mature and capable of grappling with the real business transactions of life. In 1832, during the prevalence of the cholera in New York, a circumstance occurred which accidentally shaped the future of the subject of this sketch.

A sale, at auction, of mahogany came off; and owing to the absence from the city of the wealthy dealers in the article, on account of the pestilence, he was enabled to make quite a large purchase for a very small sum. From this purchase, which he paid for with borrowed capital, he realized more than twenty-fold profit. This success led to other purchases of the same article with similar results, and finally led to his adoption of transactions in that article as a business. His profits were large as well as his transactions. He was again shrewd and wise in investing his surplus profits in real estate, bought with care and at a



low figure, most of which, including his very first purchases on Cherry Street, near Franklin Square, he has retained to this day.

In 1855 he retired from business, and ever since has devoted himself to the improvement of his real estate, and the careful and judicious investment of his surplus moneys. The result has been that he has become one of the wealthiest citizens of New York, resides upon her most splendid avenue, and is one of her noble retired merchant princes.

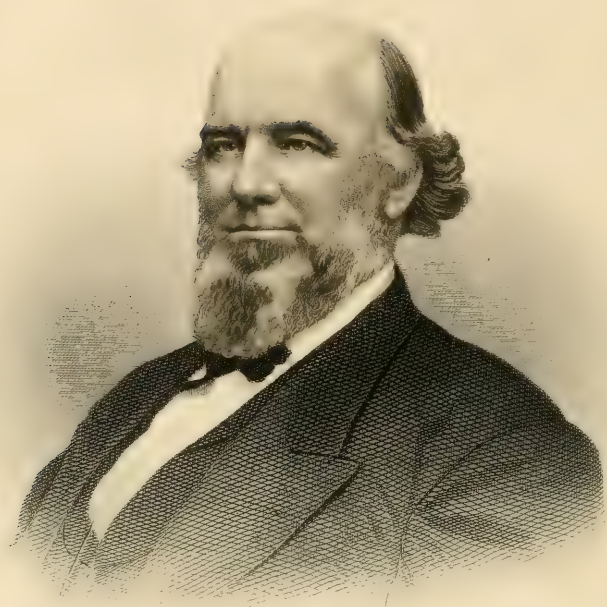
Commencing the world without fortune, by force of his untiring industry and determined will, coupled with honesty and integrity of purpose, he has at middle life and before the sere and yellow leaf has marked him, achieved a position which is all that can be desired in this world. Often solicited to enter the arena of politics, and to accept high and important positions of public trust, he has uniformly declined; with fortune and the respect of neighbors he need not aspire to fame.

The great secret of Mr. Vanderpoel's remarkable success is to be attributed, in part, to his excellent judgment, but more to the fact that he has always been strictly honest and upright in all his dealings. None of his large fortune has been accumulated at the expense of others; on the contrary, many are largely indebted to him for their present prosperity. No brighter example of the success attendant on strict integrity of purpose, unswerving pertinacity, unaided by the gifts of fortune, or the advantages of early education, is afforded in the city of New York than that of Mr. Vanderpoel. One of its most esteemed citizens and most reliable men, he began life poor, and has built up a fortune and an honorable name by legitimate trading alone.

Our free institutions open wide the door, and whoever with a strong determination will honestly work and persevere for the same result may go and do likewise.







*S. G. Pomeroy*

## SAMUEL C. POMEROY, KANSAS.

By F. H. GREER.



It is becoming quite common for individuals, as well as families, in this country, and especially in New England, to note their origin, and feel an interest in the history of their ancestors.

In the new States of the growing West it is thought less of. The question there is—What of the man himself? What are his capacities, acquirements, and resources? with very little concern for the standing and qualities of those from whom he descended.

But a suitable notice and regard of the fathers who trod their way before us, is both patriotic and commendable.

Mr. Bancroft, in his history of the town of Northampton, Massachusetts, and speaking of its early settlers, mentions the Pomeroy family, from whom the subject of this sketch descended, as follows:—

“The Pomeroy's trace descent from Ralph de Pomeroy, a favorite knight of William of Normandy—called the Conqueror—whom he accompanied to England, and acted a conspicuous part in the conquest. After which William granted him fifty-seven townships or manors, in Devonshire, and several in Somersetshire. In Devonshire, Sir Ralph built a castle, and founded an estate called ‘Bery Pomeroy,’ after the seat he had left in Normandy, and by which name it is now known.

“The castle is still a noble view, is visited by antiquarians and tourists with great interest, and is considered one of the most ancient structures in the kingdom. It is in tolerable preservation, and still possessed by a descendant of Sir Ralph.

“The first emigration of the family out of England was in the

reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Arthur Pomeroy accompanied the Earl of Essex, Lord Lieutenant, as his chaplain to Ireland, and remained in that kingdom. From this branch of the family in Ireland, have sprung, which was ennobled in 1783 by the creation of Arthur Pomeroy, a descendant of the first Arthur, as Baron, by the title of 'Lord Hurbertson,' of Castle Carbury, and subsequently a viscount.

"Arthur died, and was succeeded in estate and title by his brother, Major-General Pomeroy, who served in the British army, and in America during the Revolutionary war.

"The branch of the family from which all the Pomeroyes of the United States descended, emigrated from Devonshire about the year 1735, and consisted of two brothers, Eltweed and Eldad. They are represented as men of liberal and independent merits, determined to preserve civil and religious freedom, and disgusted with the tyranny of the Stuarts and Archbishop Laud. They settled in Dorchester, near Boston, Massachusetts. These brothers afterwards, about 1738, removed to Windsor, on the Connecticut River. The records of the colony contain grants of land in that State to Eltweed and Eldad Pomeroy.

"According to tradition, the domains of Normandy produced an apple of which the king was fond, and were thereafter called Pomeroy, or king-apple. As the surname in those days was taken from the estates they occupied, it gave name to the family of Pomeroyes, which God preserved, and enabled them to retain the characteristics of the original stock—true courage, and an unequalled spirit of perseverance and ardent attachment to civil and religious liberty, and the best feelings of our nature."

The Pomeroy coat of arms—A lion sitting, holding an apple in his paw; with motto:

"Virtutis fortuna comes."

(Fortune is the companion of valor.)

From this extract of Bancroft's history, it appears that a son

of Eltweed Pomeroy settled in Northampton, Mass. And Samuel C. Pomeroy, the subject of this sketch, was born in Southampton, Mass., January 3d, 1816, and was the son of Samuel, who was the son of Elijah, the son of Caleb, the son of Samuel, the son of Caleb, who was the son of Eltweed.

Mr. Pomeroy spent his boyhood and early life upon his father's farm, which was a hard and profitless one, in the north part of the town, and almost under the shadows of those well-known mountains, Tom and Holyoke. He enjoyed the advantages of the common schools of his native town until he acquired the several branches usually taught therein. Being anxious, however, to advance still farther, he prepared to enter college by attending the Sheldon Academy of Southampton, the Fellenberg School, in Greenfield, and the Academy at Shelburn Falls, in Massachusetts, during which time he supported himself by teaching school some portion of each year. In 1836, he entered Amherst College, and at the end of two years went to reside with a brother-in-law in Onondago county, New York, and there he measurably recovered from an injury he had caused to his eyesight. In that county he taught school, and afterward engaged in mercantile business, and also in South Butler, Wayne county, N. Y. Here he cast his first vote, and engaged, in 1838, in the first canvass, and aided to make Hon. William H. Seward Governor of the State of New York.

But during the ever memorable campaign of 1840, Mr. Pomeroy, although a Whig, became deeply interested in the principles of the "Liberty Party," so called, and often attended and participated in those exciting conventions, held by that remarkable man, Alvan Stewart, of Utica, N. Y., and deeply impressed with his earnestness and eloquence, finally espoused the Anti-slavery cause. In 1842, when the advancing years of his parents appealed to him for succor and support, he removed to his native town in Massachusetts, and there at once organized the Liberty Party. In this work he enlisted all over whom he had any influence. He lectured in



school-houses, held public discussions, met objections, softened down prejudices, and lived down obloquy. Thus year by year he labored on, and was often the defeated candidate for the Legislature, and sometimes for town and county offices; until in 1851, after eight years of unremitting effort he triumphed over both Whig and Democratic parties. So that in the winter of 1852 he is found in the Legislature of his native State, and gave work and vote to Hon. Henry Wilson, for his first seat in the Senate of the United States. As he had the previous year supported the Hon. Charles Sumner for the same position, as well also as aiding in the Legislature to elect Hon. George S. Boutwell to be Governor, and Hon. N. P. Banks to be Speaker of the House of Representatives. In later years, his association and connection with these same gentlemen has been cordial and efficient for the union of the States and for the freedom and elevation of a race.

It was during that session of the Legislature that the Rev. Dr. Beecher headed and presented the largest petition ever presented to a Legislature, asking for the passage of what is known as the "Maine Law."

Mr. Pomeroy was on the Committee which received the memorial, and he voted for, and urged the passage of that law.

He also addressed the Legislature with earnestness and effort against the rendition of Fugitive Slaves, and in favor of Emancipation, with a restoration to citizenship of all persons of African descent, not only, but also for their right to all the civil and political privileges of American freemen. Mr. Pomeroy was much interested in the passage of the Kansas Nebraska Bill, and especially in the amendment which repealed the "Missouri Compromise," so called, and opened all the public domain to slavery. And being in Washington at the time, he called on the President, Franklin Pierce, at the date of his signing the Act, and assured him that the triumph of the slave power in Congress was not conclusive on that question of slavery extension; that the contest should be carried to the Territory, *and met there*. At the same time telling

him, that his own purpose to emigrate there, *was to strike a blow at slavery.*

Mr. Pomeroy could now go, as his duties to his aged parents were all discharged. For in the early spring time of that year they both had been called to their final rest, and were buried with their fathers.

At this period the cold heart of the north began to be fired. And "emigration to Kansas" was upon very many lips. Hon. Eli Thayer had obtained a Charter from the Legislature of Massachusetts, for the "New England Emigrant Aid Company." And Mr. Pomeroy was soon chosen as its general and financial agent.

Mr. Thayer was aided by such men as Amos A. Lawrence, J. M. S. Williams, R. P. Waters, Ames Brothers, Dr. S. Cabot, etc., etc., in the organization of that company. Mr. Pomeroy lectured in its behalf, and for the cause of emigration to Kansas, until on the 27th day of August, 1854, he started with a select party of most earnest men and women, from Boston, for Kansas. Additions to their numbers were received at several points on their way, and on the 6th day of October they arrived at Kansas city, on the border of the Territory, and after some days the whole party moved up the Kansas Valley, about fifty miles, and pitched their tents upon the site where the city of Lawrence now stands. Other parties soon followed from the east, and were directed into the Territory by the same way.

Later in the Autumn of that year, there came Governor Reeder, who, with other Government officials, were welcomed to this, Lawrence, a "Yankee settlement," by Mr. Pomeroy, in a speech which has often been quoted, as significant of the purpose, if not prophetic of results.

Following this organized emigration came bands of desperadoes from Missouri and all the Southern States, and with guns, bowie-knives and whiskey, undertook to conquer Kansas to slavery. And during the disturbances and trials of 1855 and 1856, Mr. Pomeroy, from his known position as agent of this despised company, so

violently hated, had to bear his full share. Beaten, arrested, imprisoned, and threatened with death, he still escaped all, to complete the work yet remaining for him to do. He was often at Washington, pleading with those who administered the Government, for the protection and interests of the people of Kansas. Mr. Pomeroy was a member of the Convention at Philadelphia, in 1856, which nominated General Fremont, and of the Republican Convention in Chicago, in 1860, which nominated Mr. Lincoln. He lectured in the Free States, and before the State Legislatures, for the Free State cause in Kansas, raising means, sending supplies, marching men, and taking military stores through Iowa and Nebraska to Kansas, when the Missouri river was closed to them, until at last, in 1857, peace, victory and freedom, dawned upon the Free State men of Kansas.

The political career of Mr. Pomeroy became more marked and prominent upon the advent of the "Lecompton Constitution," so called, which was an effort to force slavery upon Kansas whether they voted the Constitution up or down.

Against this swindle he fought day and night, denouncing it in Kansas, and by written appeals and public lectures through the Northern States, until the Congress of 1858 gave it a death blow. At this period Mr. Pomeroy had moved from Lawrence to Atchison, in Kansas, and upon the retiring of the pro-slavery party, which had held sway there, he bought a large share of the town, and took possession of the same. He purchased also the "Squatter Sovereign," a noted pro-slavery paper, controlled by the celebrated Stringfellow, and ran up a free State flag; and that paper ever afterwards did good service in the free State cause not only, but also for the cause of liberty, emancipation, and enfranchisement.

Mr. Pomeroy was the first mayor of Atchison, and was twice chosen. He entered heartily into the plan for free schools there, and built a church edifice of his own means and deeded it to the Congregationalists. He engaged in the relief of the sufferers of 1860 from the terrible drouth of that year, and was chosen chair-

man of the State Relief Committee, and received and distributed supplies for the entire winter of 1861. At the close of these most efficient labors, and Kansas being admitted into the Union, Mr. Pomeroy met an approving verdict from the people of Kansas by his election to the Senate of the United States.

His colleague, the Hon. James H. Lane, deceased, was chosen at the same time. Mr. Pomeroy drew the long term of six years, and was again re-elected in 1867 for a term expiring in 1873.

The expectations entertained of him have not been disappointed by his course in the Senate. He had his full share in all the legislation of the eventful years of the war and those (no less difficult) bearing upon the restoration of the States, and in securing by a fundamental law the equality of all citizens of the Republic.

He sustained Mr. Lincoln in his proclamation of Emancipation and in *urging* it; even went so far as to agree to establish a colony in the tropics if the proclamation could at once follow. But events then unforeseen pressed upon Mr. Lincoln, and he issued his proclamation, and to the great relief of Mr. Pomeroy abandoned his scheme of colonization.

In the Senate, Mr. Pomeroy has done service on the Committees on "Public Lands," "Claims," "Post-offices and Post Roads," "Pacific Railroads," &c., &c., and for many years was chairman of the Public Land Committee.

His first bill, introduced soon after taking his seat, at the called session of Congress in July, 1861, may be learned by its significant title: "*A Bill to Suppress the Slaveholders' Rebellion.*"

The term, Slaveholders' Rebellion, is believed to have been original with him, as we do not know of its use prior to that date. He also took an active part in the passage of the "Homestead Law," coming as it did from his own Committee, as well as the Pacific Railroad Act, which was referred to a special committee, of which Mr. Pomeroy was a member.

But his strongest and best efforts have been put forth upon those questions which have been the lifework of a man now past fifty



years of age. Upon the 5th day of March, toward the close of a long debate in the Senate, Mr. Pomeroy advocated universal and impartial suffrage for all the citizens of the Republic, as the following extract from his published speech will show. He said: "Let us not take counsel of our fears, but of our hopes; not our enemies, but of our friends; by all the memories which cluster about the pathway in which we have been led; by all the sacrifices of blood and tears of the conflict; by all the hopes of a freed country, and a disenthralled race, yea, as a legacy to mankind, let us now secure a free representative Republic, based upon impartial suffrage, and that human equality made clear in the Declaration of Independence! To this entertainment let us invite our countrymen of all nationalities, committing our work, when accomplished, to the verdict of posterity and the blessing of Almighty God."

Out of the Senate and during the recess Mr. Pomeroy spends much of his time upon his farm at Muscotah, Kansas, where, as he has the means, he indulges his fondness for domestic animals of the best bloods.

At the close of his present term, Mr. Pomeroy has signified to his friends that he shall retire from the Senate; as he will have seen accomplished during his twelve years of service all he was anxious for when he entered public life.

To have taken part in the legislation and events which have secured, in the fundamental law of the land, the elevation and enfranchisement of an oppressed race, the perpetuity of a Union of States where citizens of all nationalities are equal before the law, seems sufficient to satisfy the ambition of any ordinary man, and with this view Mr. Pomeroy has expressed his purpose of retirement. Should Mr. Pomeroy close his political career, it is fair to presume, that in the future as well as the past, he will continue to exercise a strong controlling political influence. As a politician he has been almost invariably successful, chiefly owing to his remarkable executive ability. As a public servant, from his first office he has always been faithful and conscientious in the discharge



of his duty, and without reproach. As a citizen, he has labored arduously for the interests of his State.

One of his friends has lately said of him: "True to principle, true to his convictions, true to his country, and terribly true to his country's foes, he occupies to-day, as Senator of the United States, a proud position among his peers—a position that honors both the Representative and the represented. As a patriot, he is earnest; as a statesman he is logical; as a politician, consistent; as a man, genial, generous, and just.







*L. Hall*

of Frausville, N.Y.

## HON. ZADOCK PRATT.

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THE name of "Pratt" is both ancient and honorable. In England and France, we find it dates back about six hundred years. Some of the representatives of this name

have held high offices in both Church and State; prime ministers, earls, and a cardinal. They have always been distinguished for ability, love of liberty, and free institutions, which qualities in their descendants have been fostered and nourished under our "American Flag." In our own country, no name is more extensively known and respected among *leather* merchants or manufacturers than the Hon. Zadock Pratt's, the ex-tanner king, who for more than a score of years conducted the largest tannery in the world.

Whatever he has undertaken has been well executed, and every position occupied has been filled with marked ability. As a tanner, he has never been excelled at home or abroad. As a Congressman, he made his mark in originating and carrying through bills of great utility to the nation. As a banker, he was successful, doubling the capital of his bank in eight years. He is a model farmer, and his large dairy-farm, containing five hundred acres, is perfected and brought to a high standard in cultivation; adorned with an elegant mansion, surrounded with more than a mile of pleasure-walks which are beautified with shrubbery and trees.

At every Fair, either at home or abroad, where he has exhibited his leather, or products of his dairy-farm, he has received diplomas and medals. At the World's Fair in London, in 1851, he received a diploma, medal, and three elegant bound volumes, containing a portrait of Prince Albert, etc.

The venerable Mr. Pratt is now nearly eighty-one years of age,



almost a connecting link between the two centuries. He was present at the funeral ceremonies of General Washington, who died December 14th, 1799. He has lived under the administration of every president of the United States, and made the acquaintance of most of them.

He has been one of the most remarkable men of the present century. At the age of ten years, in 1800, he helped his father clear ten acres of land, and from that year his life through seven decades of time has been fraught with an every-day important event. During the epoch of these seventy years, many kingdoms have arisen and dynasties have fallen in the old world. Our own free and glorious Republican institutions have, during this period, been educating, modeling, and developing the latent energies of the people.

The greatest discoveries and inventions have been made and perfected; improvements are marching onward. With nearly all these great results and grand achievements, the name of the Hon. Zadock Pratt is identified.

His long life, so full of incident, is quite difficult to compress into a short sketch and do him justice, or put "*multum in parvo*."

Besides attending to so large a business, he has been colonel of a regiment, a member of the State Legislature, member of Congress, merchant, banker, manufacturer, and farmer. He has used in different ways ten millions of dollars, without calling a jury or having a lawsuit.

In the year 1809, then only nineteen years of age, he invented an improvement in a three-cornered eyeboard leather pump, to change the liquors from the old-fashioned tanvats. First ball or press-pump was used in the yard by hand, subsequently by water and steam; the kind of pump invented by Mr. Pratt has been used ever since, and saves the labor of three workmen.

At the age of twenty-one Mr. Pratt had saved thirty dollars of his earnings; and during the next year he worked as journeyman saddler at ten dollars per month, saving one hundred dollars.

The year following, he commenced business for himself as saddler and harness-maker, built a little shop, added store-goods, and slept under the counter at night.

In the year 1817 he added to his saddlery business, tanning and shoemaking. Six years after he was elected Colonel of the One Hundredth Regiment of New York, and made his own saddle and bridle, which were elegantly ornamented with silver.

In the year 1824 he located at "Schoharie Kill," now the town of Prattsville, and said to the people, "I have come to live among you, not on you." The next year he commenced building his great tannery establishment, five hundred and fifty feet long, said to be the largest in the world.

In the town of Prattsville (named for him) he has built more than one hundred houses, besides helping to build an academy and several churches. His donations to benevolent institutions and various charitable objects and churches of different denominations have been very generous—in all *more than a million of dollars*.

In 1836 Colonel Pratt was elected Representative to Congress from the Eighth District. In every national improvement he has been one of the leading men of the times. In 1838 he moved a resolution in favor of a reduction of postage, and still later favored its reduction to five cents.

In 1843 he established the Prattsville Bank with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars. In 1844 he voted for the first telegraph from Baltimore to Washington. The same year he offered an amendment to the "General Appropriation Bill," for the appropriation of ten thousand dollars to the Bureau of Topographical Engineers, to survey a route for a railroad to the Pacific; at the same time remarking, "I think I may live to ride over the road." This trip he has since made, though Colonel Benton then thought him a visionary man.

In 1845 he received a vote of thanks from the "Washington Monument Society," desiring that a bust and the name of Colonel Z. Pratt should be carved upon stone, and placed in the "Wash-

ington Monument." During this year he closed his tannery business, in which he had been engaged for upwards of twenty years. For bark and wood alone he had paid half a million of dollars; in various ways he had employed thirty thousand men, and had paid for labor more than two and a half millions of dollars.

In 1850 he was offered the presidency of two Banks. In 1853 he was elected President of the "Sixpenny Savings Bank," and in the years fifty-one and fifty-four the same honor was extended to him.

Colonel Pratt has been a great traveler in his own and foreign countries. Nothing worth seeing escapes his observation. He has written a series of letters descriptive of California, and his European tour, and others which have been generally published.

In a diary kept by himself he writes: "My life, for a period of forty years, has been an active and untiring journey. I have never known fatigue or fear; never have carried fire-arms, though few men have traveled more or seen more of the world. I have minded my own business, and this, no doubt, has saved me from thieves, robbers, and murderers." He has lived to witness all the important improvements of the present age, and his long life is now interwoven with history. The railroad, steamboat, land and ocean telegraph, daguerreotype, etc.; to all these, and to other enterprises, he contributed largely of his wealth to aid.

Although one of our most extensive business men, he has found time to deliver public lectures on various subjects and in many places.

His early instructions have made an impression on his long life. Early in youth he commenced reading a chapter in the Bible every day, and he has never discontinued it. He is a member of the Episcopal church, and senior vestryman. His charities are not sectarian, but with a liberal hand he gives unselfishly to all.

In closing this brief sketch of Colonel Pratt, it is appropriate that we pay a tribute of respect to his only son, who gave up his life for his country. Among all of our patriots who fell a bleeding sacrifice on the altar of liberty in our late war, none were more gallant,

true, or brave, than General George Pratt, who fell wounded in the battle of Manassas, and died as brave men die. He was a young officer of great promise,—only thirty-two years of age,—but had made great attainments in literature, spoke fluently sixteen different languages, was universally beloved in public and private life, and his irreparable loss is mourned by all who knew him.

We have now noticed some of the leading events in the life of this remarkable man. We see him in different changes, and filling many offices of trust, yet the same self-reliant person. He has now reached that station and position in life that commands dignity. In the language of another, “He is one of those men upon whom nature appears to have put her seal of general greatness, by giving him a clear conception of the duties he has to perform, and the spirit and talent *at once* to execute them.”

“Whether we view him as the boy and apprentice, struggling with the difficulties of an humble destiny, or as the wealthy, opulent citizen, or profound legislator, we see the same prominent traits that stamp him as one of ‘Nature’s noblemen.’ We can recognize in the man the familiar traits of his boyhood. He now travels in a larger orbit, adorning the extended circle which he has created himself through a life of untiring industry.” He can now sit “beneath his own fig-tree,” at Prattsville, and look on the beautiful village, with its gardens flowering and blossoming with loveliness, and exclaim, “This I have done.”









*John A. Guinn & Co.*

## HON. JOHN A. GRISWOLD.

BY J. ALEXANDER PATTEN.



IN the subject of the following biography, we find a man of marked amiability of character, attractive personal virtues and talents, and great success in business and political life. A true representative of American energy and intelligence, he has demonstrated in his own career that large accumulation of wealth, and high political preferment may be attained without the slightest sacrifice of individual honor.

John A. Griswold was born at Nassau, Rensselaer County, New York, in the year 1822. He comes of Revolutionary stock. Both of his grandfathers fought for the independence of the colonies, and one of them was confined in the terrible "Jersey Prison Ship," in Wallabout Bay. He is also a nephew of the late Major-General Wool, of Troy, and in early life, as a member of his uncle's family, enjoyed the influence of refined and educated society. In youth he was noted for most exemplary qualities. He was invariably kind and generous, and his truthfulness passed into a proverb. Fond of study, he directed his attention to works of solid value, and sought in every way to give both mind and body a rigid discipline for after usefulness and effort. When seventeen years of age he went to the enterprising city of Troy, to gratify his taste for commercial pursuits. He entered the iron and hardware house of Hart, Lesley & Warren, where he remained a year, and then became book-keeper for the cotton-manufacturing firm of C. H. & I. J. Merritt. During this year he obtained a thorough business education, and at length embarked in business for himself, in a wholesale and retail drug establishment. The grasp of his mind and the scope of his

ambition inclined, however, to grander schemes of enterprise and profit. His attention was directed to iron manufacture, as one of rapidly growing importance, and he became a partner in the Rensselaer Iron Company, located at Troy.

The extensive works of this company are situated on the banks of the Hudson River, and comprise a main building four hundred and thirty feet in length by one hundred and fifty in width, with machine and blacksmith's shop, etc., adjacent. There are fourteen puddling furnaces and thirteen heating furnaces, which together consume about ten thousand tons of bituminous and fifteen thousand tons of anthracite coal per annum. About six thousand tons of pig iron and fourteen thousand tons of old rails are annually used in these works and converted into railroad bars and merchantable iron. A machine for finishing locomotive tires is run in connection with the rail mill. About four hundred and fifty men are employed.

As the president and manager of the Rensselaer Iron Company, Mr. Griswold found himself in a congenial position. He introduced the utmost efficiency into every department, and expanded the business with a zeal and enterprise that gave the Works great prominence, and proved highly beneficial to the city of Troy. With other capitalists he introduced into the United States the process of iron manufacture known as the Bessemer steel process, which promises within a few years to substitute the steel rail for the iron rail on the railroads of this country.

On the breaking out of the war he urged upon the government the expediency of putting iron plates on wooden vessels for war purposes. In 1861 he was one of three who concluded a contract for this work. At the same time these associates exhibited to the Naval Board and President Lincoln a model of an iron-clad vessel made by Captain John Ericsson, of New York. A favorable report was made by the Naval Board, and, in consequence, a contract entered into with Mr. Griswold and associates for the construction of a single battery according to the model submitted. It was

stipulated that the vessel should be completed in one hundred days from the signing of the contract, which was on October 5, 1861, and it was to withstand the fire of the enemies' batteries at the shortest range. The contract price was two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars. The vessel completed under this contract was the immortal *Monitor*, which so successfully engaged the rebel iron-clad *Merrimac* in Hampton Roads on the 9th of March, 1862. She had been built at the Continental Works, Greenpoint, Long Island, by Mr. Thomas F. Rowland, under the supervision of Captain Ericsson, and was launched on January 30, 1862, which was the one hundred and first working day from the time the contract was made. The plating and portions of her machinery and other iron work were manufactured at the Rensselaer Iron Works and the Albany Iron Works. Her exploit filled the land with rejoicing, and the President and his Cabinet personally awarded to the contractors the position of public benefactors.

These and other exertions in behalf of the government were but the performance of pledges made by Mr. Griswold to the people on the firing of the first gun in the contest. As president of a war meeting held in Troy on the 15th of April, 1861, the day after the arrival of the news of the fall of Fort Sumter, he declared that any man who should be influenced by political considerations in such a crisis ought to receive universal public execration, and expressed the hope that the citizens would respond with alacrity to the call of the President for men. The Second Regiment of New York volunteers was the result which followed this and similar meetings. Mr. Griswold also aided in raising the 30th, 125th, and 169th regiments of New York volunteers, as well as the Black Horse Cavalry, and the 21st New York, or "Griswold Light Cavalry." From the beginning to the long-deferred end of the struggle he toiled with a patience and never-dying faith for the restoration of the Union.

Mr. Griswold entered public life in 1855, when he was elected mayor of Troy. In October, 1862, he was nominated on the



Democratic ticket, in the Fifteenth Congressional District, for member of Congress. The district was strongly Republican, but Mr. Griswold's admitted ability in office, and his patriotic course during the war, drew to him the votes of both parties. He was elected by a majority of one thousand two hundred and eighty-seven votes, while in the same district the Republican ticket received a majority of eight hundred and seventeen votes. Taking his seat as a member of the Thirty-eighth Congress, he at once made his mark. "As a member of the Naval Committee," says an account, "he labored indefatigably and effectively to strengthen and promote the efficiency of the navy. Acting ever from principle, the agency of former party friendships was exerted in vain to impose upon him a course of conduct that involved the spirit of disloyalty. Unflinching patriotism, such as was his, stood unshaken by the dictation of caucus, or the persuasion of earlier political ties. With such a record he returned home at the close of the session of 1864. As one man, the Union men of his district resolved to return him to the seat in Congress which he had filled with such distinguished honor." He was renominated by acclamation on the 14th of September, 1864, at the Union Nominating Convention of the Fifteenth District, and against the most determined efforts of the opposition was again elected to Congress for the term commencing March 4, 1865. His patriotic course during the sessions of the Thirty-ninth Congress was cordially indorsed by the majority of his constituents, and he was renominated for a seat in the Fortieth Congress. He received a majority of five thousand three hundred and sixteen votes, the largest ever given to any representative from his district. In this Congress he was a member of the Committee of Ways and Means. As a further approval of his eminent services, in July, 1868, he was nominated by the Republican State Convention for the office of Governor of New York. His opponent on the Democratic side was John T. Hoffman, one of the most popular men of the State. In 1867, the Democrats had carried the State by forty-eight thousand majority, and in the

election of 1868 the official returns gave Mr. Hoffman a majority of about twenty-eight thousand.

We can not refrain from enlarging upon the significance of Mr. Griswold's public career. It is inscribed on the legislative records of the dark hour in the annals of the nation among the acts of immortal patriotism that saved the Union from dismemberment and ruin. Heedless of the policy of party and of the influence of long friendship, he stood throughout the entire period of civil strife, the fearless patriot and moral hero. "On all questions of furnishing supplies," says another, "on all matters of financial policy, and upon every declaration of the duty of crushing the rebellion, and preserving the government, he constantly and uniformly gave his vote with the Union men in Congress." By his firm attitude and cheerful hope, by these promptly given and unchanged votes, and by his activity, efficiency, and liberality, in every sphere of usefulness, he fulfilled his whole duty to his struggling country. His conduct was statesmanship in its most profound phase, and patriotism in its most sublime aspect. It was where the mind penetrated beyond the uncertainty and tumult of the hour to the grandest national results, and where the heart was pure and brave enough to endure partisan obloquy for the common good.

Mr. Griswold has a well-proportioned and graceful figure. His head is large and finely shaped, with regular, handsome features. The whole countenance is beaming with intelligence and that amiable expression which shows the refined and gentle nature. At the same time you see that he is a person who, when the occasion calls for it, has a resolution which is seldom shaken. His manners are polite, and, without the slightest affectation, are always high-bred and dignified. In business energetic and comprehensive, in public duties enlightened and faithful, he is in social life one of the most polished and popular of men.







Engr'd by J. E. Pomeroy N.Y.

*Watson Webb*



## JAMES WATSON WEBB.

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WE adopt the following sketch of General Webb up to 1858, for two reasons. In the first place, it was published in *Harper's Weekly* and the *Courier and Enquirer*—papers of the widest circulation of that day—and it fearlessly challenged criticism, at a time when from political considerations at least half the press of the Union would, if possible, have questioned its facts. The accuracy of the biography was conceded by all parties, and has become historical. And secondly, we adopt this sketch by the Hon. Geo. H. Andrews, because that gentleman has since served with distinction in the Senate of the State of New York, and is now one of the Commissioners of Taxes in the city of New York, probably the most responsible office in the State.

[From the *Morning Courier and New York Enquirer* of September 16, 1858.]

The following very brief biography of General Webb, who for nearly thirty-one years has been the responsible editor of this paper, was prepared for *Harper's Weekly* by George H. Andrews, Esq., one of the associate editors of the *Courier and Enquirer*, who had been employed upon it, as man and boy, nearly a quarter of a century. Brief as the biography is, it was found to be too long for *Harper's Weekly*, and a very short synopsis of it was made to accompany the wood-cut in that paper.

General Webb is now absent in Massachusetts, and his associates have determined to publish this sketch, because it is more satisfactory than the synopsis of it which appeared in *Harper's*; because it contains certain explanations which we think due to the present generation of our readers, and which we think General

Webb will permit to be made ; and because, having prepared the work to our satisfaction, we do not like to see our labor thrown away. We therefore "assume the responsibility" of publishing it in the *Courier and Enquirer*.

General J. Watson Webb was born in Claverack, Columbia County, New York, on the 8th of February, 1802. His father, General Samuel B. Webb, of Wethersfield, Connecticut, was the sixth lineal descendant from Richard Webb, who was admitted a freeman in the town of Boston in 1632, and settled Hartford in 1635, in connection with the Rev. Mr. Hooker, and sixty-three followers. At the battle of Bunker Hill, Lieut. Webb commanded Capt. Chester's company of volunteers ; was wounded, thanked in general orders for his gallantry, and appointed aid-de-camp of General Putnam. In June, 1776, he was appointed the aid-de-camp of Washington, and was wounded at the battle of White Plains, and again at Trenton. In 1777, he was promoted to the command of the Third Connecticut Regiment, raised by himself, and almost exclusively at his own expense, and after serving some months on the Hudson, he was taken prisoner in crossing over to Long Island under command of General Parsons. He was not exchanged until 1781, when, upon the retirement of Baron Steuben, he succeeded that officer in the command of the light infantry of the army.

In all the old histories of Connecticut, as also in Lossing's "Pictorial History of the Revolution," there is a representation of what is called the "Webb House," in Wethersfield, which owes its celebrity to the following circumstance. When the Count Rochambeau arrived off our coast with a French fleet in 1780, it was necessary that he and Washington should meet. New York was in possession of the British, and the meeting could only take place somewhere to the eastward. Accordingly, Washington applied to his former aid-de-camp, General Samuel B. Webb, who arranged that Washington and Rochambeau, with their respective staffs, should meet at his father's house in Wethersfield. They went accordingly : and hence the historical character of the old family mansion.

At the close of the Revolution General Webb settled in New York, and in 1787 married the daughter of Judge Hogeboom, of Columbia County, the great-grand-daughter of the original proprietor of the manor of Claverack, to whom it was granted in 1704. The subject of this memoir, therefore, is equally descended from the English and Dutch settlers of our country; and is what, in the olden time, boys used to denominate a "Yankee Dutchman." He was named James Watson after James Watson, of this city, who was a captain in the Third Connecticut Regiment, subsequently one of our most distinguished merchants, and a Senator of the United States.

At the age of twelve, General Webb went to reside at Coopers-town, in Otsego County, with his brother-in-law and guardian, Judge George Morell, where he completed his education under the immediate supervision of the Rev. John Smith, who had the reputation of being one of the best linguists in the State. Judge Morell, then at the head of the bar in Otsego County, and subsequently Chief Justice of Michigan, wished Webb to study law in his office, but this was decidedly objected to. Webb claimed to go in the army or navy, or else to study medicine. To this the guardian objected, instancing that an elder brother had studied medicine and immediately abandoned the profession and entered the army: that he, Morell, had also taken his degree as a physician and then turned to the law, and insisted that no more such experiments should be tried. The army and navy he said were out of the question. Both parties were obstinate, and the difference resulted in a compromise;—young Webb was to try the mercantile profession. He did so in good faith with Colonel Magher, of Cherry Valley; but at the expiration of three months gave notice to his brother-in-law that it would not do. But his guardian insisted that it was too late to change. Webb ceased to remonstrate, but promptly decided upon his course. He was a favorite of the late Jabez D. Hammond and James O. Morse, who took pleasure in placing at his disposal their excellent libraries, and during the six months he was in Cherry Valley he

did little besides reading with avidity such books as Mr. Hammond recommended to him. All his plans being arranged to dismiss those in authority over him, he made a visit to his brother-in-law at Cooperstown, and upon leaving him, had quietly deposited in the box of an old-fashioned gig his portion, the one-seventh of his father's silver, which had been divided among the children in 1808. In those days families of any position prided themselves upon the quantity of their plate; and young Webb's inheritance in this regard was quite sufficient for all his purposes, although he never ceased to regret that he was thus deprived of family relics which he so greatly prized.

Having thus legitimately "raised the wind" for his intended escape from all control, he gave notice to Colonel Magher of his intention to leave him. The colonel, of course, supposed it to be a family matter, as he (Webb) had just returned from a visit to his brother-in-law, and only requested of him to remain until he could visit New York to make a purchase of goods. This did not suit the views of the boy, as it might lead to a discovery of his intended "runaway" and the defeat of his military aspirations. But the request was reasonable and not to be refused. On the day after Colonel Magher's return, however, Master Webb, then seventeen years of age, bade adieu to Cherry Valley, and gave notice to his brother-in-law that he would in future dispense with his duties as guardian. He came direct to this city, where Governor Clinton then was, having just married Miss Jones. He knew the Governor well; and he knew also, that if he did not put a bold face upon it, detection was more than probable. Accordingly, as the Governor often related the interview, when asked how his family were, young Webb replied that they were all well, and desired to be kindly remembered to the Governor. He stated to the Governor that he was on his way to Washington to get a commission in the army, and wanted a letter from him to Mr. Calhoun, the Secretary-of-War. The Governor remarked that such a letter would do him an injury instead of service, as he was in bad odor with the administration. Webb



said that he was aware of that, and simply wished the letter to be a certificate of his being the son of General Samuel B. Webb, and of his desire to enter the army; and with such certificate, President Monroe and his father having been friends during the Revolution, he did not doubt his success. The Governor readily gave the letter, but at the same time cautioned the youth against anticipating any favorable result from his visit to the Federal city. He, however, was more sanguine; and report says, that having ascertained the cost of his trip to Washington, he laid that sum aside, and devoted every dollar of what remained of the proceeds of the family plate, to see the lions in New York! This being accomplished, he repaired to Washington, and presented himself to Mr. Calhoun, who so thoroughly won the heart of the boy, that in after life, and amid all the changes of parties and party politics, he had secured the services of one, of whom it has been truly said, that he never forgot a favor and never forsook a friend; but has proved himself, through a period of thirty years of party strife, faithful to the end, regardless alike of the requirements of party and that political expediency which too often ignores the claims of justice and truth, and repudiates mere personal friendships.

When Mr. Calhoun had read De Witt Clinton's letter, under protest that it was but a certificate of identity, he frankly admitted the boy's claims to consideration; but at the same time said it was absolutely impossible to give him the appointment he solicited, in consequence of the graduating class at West Point being a large one, and more than sufficient to fill all the vacancies; and that their claims were paramount. Now came the struggle: a runaway from home with only three dollars in his pocket, and too proud ever to return home if he failed in his object of getting either in the army or navy, the young gentleman was in what might well be described as "a tight place." But *nil desperandum* was his motto; and he inquired of the Secretary, whether, if there had been no graduating class from West Point, his claims would have been recognized and he appointed. Mr. Calhoun seemed somewhat



astonished at this business-like mode of viewing the subject, but seemingly disposed to humor the boy, said, "Certainly, but why do you ask?" "Because in that case," was the prompt reply, "I wish permission to address you a letter, examining into the justice of the ground upon which you have made a decision which can not fail to have an influence upon my future life." Mr. Calhoun became interested, and told the boy to write freely whatever he pleased, and his letter should receive a respectful consideration. This was the 12th of August, 1819. The weather was intolerably hot, but the young adventurer, for such he had now become, returned to his lodgings, and went at his work, as he has since so often done at an editorial, and that same evening finished and left at the door of Mr. Calhoun's residence his memoir, intended to demonstrate that the position the Secretary had assumed was not tenable, because it was not just. He contrasted the position of the graduates from West Point with his own—young men selected from different parts of the Union, and mostly from political considerations; who having been educated for four years by the government, and supported and clothed by it during the same period, could not be said to have any *claims* upon the country other than their peculiar fitness for the army. He, on the contrary, had been educated at his own expense; his father had served from the commencement to the end of the Revolution—freely shedding his blood in defense of his principles—and without any other reward than the privilege of having spent a fortune and the best years of his life in the service of a country, which now argued that those upon whom it had conferred the benefits of an education, had greater *claims* to a commission in the army than one whose father had aided in the establishment of our independence, and who had been educated at his own expense instead of at the expense of the country. He admitted that, if better qualified for the place, the claim of the cadet to a commission, or rather the right of the country to the cadet's services, allowed of no question; but if, on the contrary, he was as well educated as those about to

graduate at West Point, there could be no doubt of his greater claim to the appointment. He claimed to be as well qualified in all respects save military tactics; and proposed that a board of officers should be appointed to examine him in all the studies pursued at the Military Academy, except engineering and other purely military studies; and if found competent, then he insisted that it was his right to receive a commission regardless of the graduating cadets and their claims. The letter closed with an intimation, that he should call on the Secretary at his house the following morning at 9 o'clock, to learn his decision in regard to his application. On the following morning he presented himself at Mr. Calhoun's door at the time indicated, and was shown into the reception-room. Mr. Calhoun entered almost immediately, and looking very sternly at him, said—"Young gentleman, I suppose you have come to knowy our *fate*?" slightly accenting the last word. This had the effect intended; and Webb, believing the decision was adverse, firmly responded that such was his purpose. At this Mr. Calhoun relaxed into one of his blandest smiles, which those familiar with them will never forget, and taking him by the hand, said kindly, "You are mistaken. I have carefully read your letter, and you have demonstrated your claim to be appointed, while the manner in which you have accomplished your purpose, is with me evidence of your fitness for the army."

A long conversation then ensued, in which Mr. Calhoun drew from him an admission that he was a "runaway" from home, and only seventeen years of age; and the interview closed with his being appointed a lieutenant in the Fourth Battalion of Artillery, then commanded by Colonel House, with orders to report at Governor's Island in the harbor of New York;—thus not only giving him a commission, but also conceding the choice of corps and station.

Those who know General Webb, need not be told what even his enemies concede, viz., that his leading characteristic is devoted attachment to those who have done him a kindness. Accordingly,

we find that during his long political career, he never suffered an unkind word to be published against Mr. Calhoun, widely as they differed upon the exciting topics of the day. While the *Courier and Enquirer* opposed what it deemed Mr. Calhoun's errors, it always expressed a conviction that he was the very soul of honor, and a politician of the greatest purity and sincerity, acting upon a mistaken view of the subjects upon which they differed. This was so marked that our leading men well knew there existed some bond of attachment toward Mr. Calhoun which was stronger than mere party considerations; for never did General Webb visit Washington without paying his respects to Mr. Calhoun before he called upon any other person. So well were the relations between the parties understood, that in the winter of 1845-'6 when President Polk's 54° 40' message, as it was called, had rendered war with England almost inevitable, and when England had actually prepared for the conflict, Mr. Webster and the Honorable Willie P. Mangum wrote to General Webb and requested him to repair to Washington; where, they stated, his services were wanted. General Webb had written a series of articles in the *Courier and Enquirer* arguing that the United States had not the shadow of a claim to any territory north of 49° of north latitude and urging upon congress a settlement of the Northwestern Boundary question upon that basis; and on his reporting himself to Mr. Webster discovered that it was in connection with this subject that his presence in Washington was desired. Mr. Webster informed him that beyond all question a war with England must follow our government's persisting in its unjust demand; and that it could only be averted by inducing the immediate friends of Mr. Calhoun, five in number, to unite with the Whigs in the Senate in the passage of a resolution disavowing any claim north of latitude 49°. And knowing the kind personal relations existing between General Webb and Mr. Calhoun, he had sent for him, with a view of having the distinguished South Carolinian approached upon the subject of such a union. General Webb urged that such appeal could be

better made by Mr. Webster and Mr. Mangum; and endeavored to waive the mission as one which really belonged to others. But all in vain. They claimed that his position toward Mr. Calhoun, which was well understood, peculiarly fitted him for the duty, and act he must. He accordingly waited upon Mr. Calhoun, and after apologizing for presuming to approach him on such a subject, frankly opened the question by stating precisely what had passed between him and Mr. Webster and the leading Whigs of the Senate, and what it was they desired. We quote from General Webb's report of the interview—which he never lost an occasion to repeat both before and since the death of Mr. Calhoun, always awarding to the manly, straightforward patriotism of that distinguished statesman, the merit of having prevented our country's being involved in an unjust war with the greatest maritime power of the world. General Webb says:—

“After listening attentively, Mr. Calhoun complimented me upon the articles I had written to prove that we had no claim north of 49°; and then proceeded to review and re-argue the whole question in the most lucid and masterly manner, and concluded by saying: ‘Whatever others may think or say, *you know* that I never permitted my party feelings or party obligations to interfere with my duty to our country. It is clear to my mind, that we have no just claim beyond 49°; and I agree with Mr. Webster that to persist in claiming to 54° 40°, can not fail to involve us in an unjust war. Say to him, therefore, that when the occasion presents, I, and such of my friends as will be guided by my advice—it is not for me to say whether they are one or five in number—will most cheerfully act in concert with Whig senators, in confining our claim to 49° of north latitude.”

Upon this report being made to Messrs. Webster and Mangum, the defeat of Mr. Polk's war policy was deemed certain. Unlooked-for delay occurred, however, in the unexpected avowal of Mr. N. P. Talmadge, of New York,—who had been elected to the Senate by the Whigs upon his abandonment of the Democratic party, to



which he was now desirous of returning—that he intended to vote with the administration in favor of  $54^{\circ} 40'$ . In like manner, too, Mr. John M. Clayton, of Delaware, apprehensive of being in a minority, much to the astonishment of senators, indicated his determination to abandon his friends and vote for President Polk's untenable claim. During this period General Webb was absolutely compelled by the leading Whig senators to remain in Washington; and there is written testimony from Mr. Webster, and also from Mr. Mangum who is still living, and which we have seen, showing how much the final settlement of this question depended upon the direct action of General Webb, which, in one instance, involved the probabilities of a personal affair—a certain senator having authorized General Webb to report to Mr. Webster that he would vote for  $49^{\circ}$  and subsequently denying it, and avowing a determination to vote for  $54^{\circ} 40'$ . The affair was settled by his vote being cast for  $49^{\circ}$ , and in conformity with his pledge made to Mr. Webster through General Webb. At least three of the Whig senators of that day, who are still living, are cognizant of the fact alluded to, which settled the Northwestern Boundary question with England in favor of justice, peace, and  $49^{\circ}$ , instead of  $54^{\circ} 40'$ .

In doing justice to the memory of Mr. Calhoun we have been led astray from the task in hand. Lieutenant Webb reported for duty in New York Harbor in August, 1819; but fond of active life, and desirous of knowing the great West, he exchanged to Detroit in the autumn of the same year.

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At the reduction of the army in 1821, Lieutenant Webb was retained in the artillery; and his pride being thus satisfied, he proposed to exchange with a brother officer, formerly of the artillery, but who had been retained in the 3d Infantry, and was dissatisfied at being forced into a corps which he did not like. The exchange was accomplished, and in June, 1821, Lieutenant Webb reported for duty at Chicago, which post was then commanded by Colonel, afterward General John McNeil, who fought so gallantly under



Scott at Chippewa. Webb was appointed the adjutant of the post; and from his activity of mind, did almost everybody's duty as well as his own, and was looked upon as the commander. On the last of January, 1822, Mr. McKinsey, the sub-agent of Indian affairs, reported to the commandant, that a friendly Pottawatomie chief had brought to him a piece of tobacco sent him by the Sioux Indians, with an invitation to his tribe to participate in cutting off the 5th Regiment of Infantry, then stationed at St. Peters, at the Falls of St. Anthony, and occupying only temporary huts, in full reliance upon the friendly feelings of the Sioux. It was well known that Colonel Snelling and his entire command, including the wives and children of the officers and men of the regiment,—almost every officer in which was married,—were in a very exposed condition, as they had not had time to erect the necessary works for their defense; and of course, as there was no doubt of the accuracy of the intelligence, the greatest anxiety prevailed at Chicago in regard to their fate. The adjutant was accordingly ordered to find some person willing to carry a letter to the commandant of Fort Armstrong, at Rock Island, on the Mississippi, the information to be thence forwarded up to St. Anthony. But there were no inhabitants within 180 miles of the fort, the nearest being at Fort Wayne, in Indiana, with the exception of a few *engagées*, or half-breed fur traders, who wintered about the garrison. These and the friendly Indians peremptorily refused to go from fear of the Winnebagoes, then occupying the country between Chicago and the Mississippi. In this dilemma Colonel McNeil expressed his unwillingness to order any party upon such a duty, as the weakness of his command rendered it impossible to detach a force sufficient to protect itself; and yet there existed the most urgent necessity for the information being conveyed to Rock Island, be the hazard what it might. In this emergency Adjutant Webb volunteered his services, which were gladly accepted, and, having resigned his adjutancy, he left the fort on the 4th of February, accompanied by a sergeant and an Indian guide, with one horse to ride and break a path

through the snow, and one to pack their provisions. It was his intention to make Rock River, where lived an old French fur trader, and there procure a Winnebago to guide him to Fort Armstrong, on the Mississippi, sending back his Pottawatomie guide. On reaching Rock River, however, on the evening of the fourth day, he heard the Winnebagoes actually engaged in their celebrated war-dance, and was told that it was preparatory to their leaving in the morning on a war-path, to surprise and capture Fort Armstrong, the very place to which Lieutenant Webb was seeking a friendly guide. The immediate cause of this outbreak was said to be the arrival on the river, two days previously, of three Indians who had been sentenced to be hung at Kaskaskia for the murder of soldiers at Fort Armstrong some months before; but the real cause for the proceeding was the fact, that the Winnebagoes were in league with the Sioux to cut off the garrison at St. Anthony, and intended taking Fort Armstrong in their way. Lieutenant Webb and his Indian and soldier were secreted by the Frenchman, Lasallier, until all was quiet; and he then commenced an examination into the probabilities and possibilities of getting to Fort Armstrong, without the aid and in defiance of the Winnebagoes. To follow the course of the river was certain destruction, but there was a chance over the great prairie. The thermometer when he left Chicago, marked eight degrees *below zero*, and it had been growing colder; and Lasallier admitted, that after a day's chase over the great prairie, the Indians would probably return from fear of freezing to death—a fate that he said would certainly overtake the officer if he made the attempt. Lieutenant Webb acquiesced in this reasoning and advice, and agreed to return to the fort, and asked to be roused at two o'clock in the morning with that view. He kept his own counsel; but of course, the idea of returning never for a moment crossed his mind. In the first place, the abandonment of the expedition from apprehension of danger was to be disgraced forever; but even this was trifling in comparison with the reflection, that an entire regiment of soldiers—their wives and children—

would, by such abandonment, be left to the tender mercy of the savages, who had promised their allies to spare neither age nor sex. Besides, inured to fatigue and exposure, and courting both from habit, Lieutenant Webb, as he has frequently said, believed that he and his sergeant could out-travel the Indians with six hours of start; and in any contingency, could endure more continuous fatigue now that they had had four days' training. And as for the cold, that was only a question of endurance. If they could walk without rest for two days and three nights, they were certain to reach their place of destination; as the cold would not be fatal while in motion, and the Indians would thus be put at defiance.

At two o'clock on the morning of the 8th of February, his twentieth birthday, Lieutenant Webb, his soldier, and Indian commenced their apparently homeward trip,—but he soon apprised his companion that his destination was the Mississippi, and that his Indian must take the necessary provisions and return to the fort at Chicago. But the Pottawatomie's fear of the Winnebagoes could not be overcome; and the Indian would not listen to being left alone in the Winnebago country, even with his face turned toward home. He was fairly warned that almost certain abandonment and death, awaited him in the forced march about to be undertaken; but persuasion and threats and orders were alike disregarded. Return he dared not; and so he braved death in the other direction, well knowing that, if the pursuit were a hot one, he would have but little chance against the endurance of the white man. The Indian will trot off his hundred miles while the best white is doing his seventy-five, but when it comes to endurance day after day and night after night, the white man increases in his capacity to endure and his ability to perform, while the Indian is worn out and rendered absolutely unable to sustain the ordinary amount of physical exertion.

Rock River was crossed about three A. M.; and at eight, as it subsequently appeared, the chase on the part of the Winnebagoes commenced. Fortunately for the pursued, the snow was about

eight inches deep, and the thermometer that day at Fort Armstrong, forty miles south, was standing twenty-seven degrees *below zero*, in the woods! How cold it was on the bleak and shelterless prairie must be left to conjecture. Under such circumstances, Lieutenant Webb felt that every thing depended upon his improving his five or six hours' start, and went to work to prove the truth of the sailors' adage that "a stern chase is always a long one." It proved so in this case. After encountering fatigues and hardships, which it is no part of our intention in this brief notice to mention, Providence guided him in safety and unharmed, not only to the banks of the Mississippi, but through the body of hostile Indians by which the fort was surrounded, and into the fort itself. His escape was deemed almost miraculous by Major Larabee (who commanded) and his brother officers; and it is easy to conceive the impression made upon them by the intelligence respecting the purpose of the Sioux Indians toward the regiment at Fort Snelling. On the same day an express was sent up the Mississippi on the ice, with a communication from Lieutenant Webb, which in due time reached Colonel Snelling, one of the most active and efficient officers in the service; and, most fortunately, at a period when the leading chiefs of the Sioux were in or about the garrison. These were quietly seized and confined in the guard-house, and runners dispatched into the interior, inviting all the principal men of the nation to a grand council. They came accordingly; and while in council, the troops surrounded the council-house and Colonel Snelling announced to them his knowledge of their treachery, and the very important fact that their principal chiefs were then in confinement as hostages, and thus most effectually defeated the intended rising; which, but for the energy and perseverance of Lieutenant Webb, must have resulted in the massacre of the entire regiment and its women and children.

In the mean time Lasallier, the old Frenchman at Rock River, sent a friendly Indian to Chicago, to report that Lieutenant Webb had foolishly taken to the prairie and was pursued by a war party of the Winnebagoes, who could not fail to overtake and destroy him.



In consequence of this intelligence, on the next monthly return of the post, Lieutenant Webb and his sergeant were reported "Killed by the Indians!"

We have given these two anecdotes of Gen. Webb as illustrating his leading characteristics,—entire fearlessness and great energy, combined with untiring perseverance and a reckless disregard of consequences—which have been so conspicuous in his editorial career, and rendered him too frequently an object of assault by his political friends as well as his opponents.

In the summer of 1823, Lieutenant Webb married Helen Lispenard, daughter of Alexander L. Stewart of this city, and granddaughter of Anthony Lispenard, Esq., one of the oldest Huguenot families of the city and State. In 1825, he was appointed the adjutant of the Third Regiment; and it was universally conceded that he had no superior of his rank in the army. At that day, *Rank*, both in the army and navy, was considered as placing its possessors above the Law; or as Commodore Porter was said to have remarked, there was "no law for post captains." Against this assumption two officers of the army distinguished themselves by their open opposition. These were Major, afterward General Kearney, and Lieutenant Webb; and it was said that while neither of them ever had a word of dispute with a junior, they gave their immediate seniors a straight and narrow path to travel; while by the strictest adherence to the law and the regulations they escaped all consequences which it would have delighted some of their seniors to have inflicted. But quarrels and bitter feelings were the natural consequences; and Lieutenant Webb was twice in the field, besides very frequently on the verge of personal conflicts. Dueling at that period was a practice of every-day occurrence; and those in the army and navy, unfortunately, considered it a necessary part of their duty. Brought up in such a school, and when the recklessness and disregard of life inculcated by the war of 1812 was still exerting its influence, it is not surprising that Lieutenant Webb carried with him into civil life the same principles and feelings;



and the recollection of this fact is the only apology we can make for the similar difficulties in which he has been involved as an editor.

In September, 1827, General Webb resigned his commission in the army; and entertaining the most devoted personal attachment to General Jackson, in December, 1827, he became the proprietor and principal editor of the *Morning Courier*. That paper had been established in May previous; but was about being stopped in December for want of funds to carry it on, when General Webb became its proprietor and made it a most efficient auxiliary in the election of General Jackson, his old friend and military commander. In 1829, he purchased the New York *Enquirer* from M. M. Noah; and he found laboring upon that paper as a reporter, James Gordon Bennett, whose services he continued in the same capacity—Bennett occasionally assisting in the editorial department. At that period the press of New York had scarcely emerged from the system of colonial dependence which had continued from the period of the Revolution. The old *Gazette*, *Daily Advertiser*, and *Mercantile Advertiser* were the leading papers of the city, and the united editorials of the entire morning press, did not equal in length an ordinary leader of the *Courier and Enquirer* of this day. A row boat collected the ship news and the newspapers from the packet ships as they arrived; and all were content with transferring to their columns such news as was thus possessed by all alike. This did not correspond with the views of General Webb, or the activity of character for which he was conspicuous, and he very soon set up a ship news collecting establishment of his own, headed by the news schooner *Eclipse*, a Baltimore clipper, and a fleet of small boats. This compelled the *Gazette*, *Mercantile Advertiser*, *Daily Advertiser*, *Journal of Commerce*, and several other papers to combine in a similar establishment—both parties keeping a schooner cruising off the Hook, and small boats from time to time connecting with her. Webb then contracted with the late Isaac Webb, father of the present eminent ship-builder, to build

him a clipper-schooner of one hundred tons burden, which should beat every pilot-boat and schooner in the harbor, or he not be compelled to take her. Under this contract, the schooner *Courier and Enquirer* was built; and unquestionably she was the strongest and fastest craft of her class that had ever been built at that day. With this schooner cruising from 70 to 100 miles at sea, and the *Eclipse* at the Hook, and a fleet of small boats inside, all opposition was very soon put down; and, in consequence, the combined opposition purchased the news from Gen. Webb at its actual cost.

The necessary energy having thus been infused into the ocean news department, General Webb next turned his attention to procuring early and exclusive intelligence from Washington during the sessions of Congress. There were no railroads or telegraphs in those days; and the mails then left Washington in the morning and arrived in New York in the night of the following day. Thus the Congressional proceedings of Monday reached New York on Wednesday night, and appeared in the morning papers of Thursday. Webb determined they should appear in the *Courier and Enquirer* of Wednesday; and with that view made a contract with certain parties to run a daily horse express from Washington to New York during the entire session of the next Congress, for which he agreed to pay seven thousand five hundred dollars per month. Horses were accordingly stationed every six miles from Washington to this city; and many of our merchants still remember how regularly the "Pony Express" gave them the news through the columns of the *Courier and Enquirer*, twenty-four hours in advance the mail.

Under this system of collecting the news, enlarging the paper, employing additional editors and reporters, opening correspondence in different quarters, and devoting whole columns to subjects never before touched upon by the press, the expenses of the daily press were more than quadrupled, and four of the old morning papers died out. But a new impetus was thus given to the newspaper press of the city, which has continued to increase to this day;

and for that impetus to an influence upon the public mind and the character of the press, the community are unquestionably indebted to General Webb.

In 1838 the first ocean steamer arrived at our wharves; and from that day all enterprise in collecting ocean news was put an end to, as the steamers brought up their news in anticipation of the news boats. And so with the "Pony Express"—the telegraph and railway completely disposed of that avenue of enterprise; and from that time every press has had placed within its reach the same means of obtaining information, without any other trouble than the expense of paying for it. The "Associated Press," therefore, now does the work for all, and there exists no field for individual enterprise.

It is no part of the intention of the writer, who has served nearly a quarter of a century upon the *Courier and Enquirer*—from his boyhood until he has become an associate in its conduct—to enter into any defense of the political course of General Webb, or to notice the assaults made from time to time upon him. In furnishing some of the data for this notice, General Webb stipulated that no such attempt should be made, and that it should be printed without being submitted to him for review or correction. Inasmuch, however, as more than a quarter of a century has elapsed since, for temporary party purposes, Webb was charged with having received improper facilities from the Bank of the United States, and as on a recent occasion the charge has been renewed, we give the following *facts* as they appear in testimony before a committee of Congress which examined Webb at his request.

M. M. Noah purchased Daniel E. Tylee's interest in the *Courier and Enquirer* upon his notes indorsed by Webb for \$15,000. These notes were discounted by Silas E. Burrows, well known in this city and still living. Webb had no interest in the matter except to substitute Noah for Tylee as his partner, and thus obtain a valuable assistant. Subsequently, Webb and Noah applied to the bank for a loan of \$20,000 to be reduced ten per cent. every six

months, and Walter Bowne, the very head of the Democracy in this city, and a director in the branch bank here, recommended and urged this loan to his political opponents; and it was made. Out of this transaction grew the charge of \$52,000 bribery. Webb was asked by the committee,—What interest had you in the loan to Noah upon his notes indorsed by you? He answered, None whatever.—Who discounted those notes? Answer. Silas E. Burrows gave his notes at three and six months for them, which notes my father-in-law discounted for Col. Tylee.—Where are those notes now? Answer. In Connecticut. Silas E. Burrows told me yesterday morning, that they were in his father's iron chest in Connecticut, and *have never been out of his possession.*

It subsequently appeared that on this same day Nicholas Biddle had sworn that he discounted for Silas E. Burrows the notes of Noah, indorsed by Webb, ten days after their date, and that they were then in bank! This very conclusively proved that there was no collusion between Biddle and Webb, the latter of whom had gone from the boat directly to the committee, without seeing Biddle. When the committee reported, they added together the discount for \$20,000, the renewal (ten per cent. off) \$18,000, and the discount of Noah's notes to Burrows for \$15,000, within a fraction, making a total of nearly \$53,000! And out of this simple transaction, and this loan of \$20,000, payable ten per cent. every six months, arose the terrible cry of \$52,725 bribery and corruption. The original notes are all now in Webb's possession. Webb had no more to do with the discount to Burrows upon Noah's notes than the man in the moon, or he would have been the last man living to swear that the notes were then in Connecticut—Biddle having already sworn that they had long been in his possession,—of which Webb, of course, knew nothing.

In 1838 General Webb challenged Mr. Cilley, a member of Congress from Maine, for misrepresenting this bank transaction on the floor of Congress. Mr. Cilley refused to meet him, on the ground that he was not responsible for words spoken in debate.



Mr. Graves, of Kentucky, Webb's friend, inquired whether he took any exception to Webb personally, to which Cilley replied—certainly not,—but that he could not and would not be responsible for words spoken in debate. Graves reported the result to Webb, who agreed to consider the affair at an end. Subsequently, Mr. Cilley's friends, including Colonel Benton, censured in no measured language Cilley's ground of refusing the challenge. Graves related to the Hon. Henry A. Wise, the present Governor of Virginia, what had occurred and the final settlement of the affair, when Wise told him that Cilley's friends would compel him to deny the ground of settlement, and urged him to get Cilley's signature to a letter recapitulating what had occurred, in a manner which was calculated to place him in a very equivocal position. Graves adopted his counsel, and told Webb what he intended. Webb begged him to do nothing of the kind, as it was driving Cilley into a corner; insisting that he, Webb, being satisfied, and the matter disposed of, nobody had a right to meddle with or open it, and begged Graves not to heed Mr. Wise's advice, which could not fail, in the then heated state of the public mind, to lead to disastrous results. But Graves said—"No, I am advised to do this for the protection of my own honor, and I shall compel him to sign this letter. It is my affair I am attending to and not yours." Webb continued his remonstrances and his entreaties to let the matter rest; but all in vain. Graves had been told by Wise that his own honor required the signature to the letter, and he determined to have it. Never was there given such thoughtless counsel to a highminded and honorable man; and the consequences were just what Webb had predicted. Cilley, who was a brave and well-disposed man, smarting under the censure of his friends for having simply done his duty in refusing to fight a duel for words spoken in debate, most peremptorily refused to sign the letter tendered him or to make any explanation whatever upon the subject—secretly rejoicing, no doubt, at the opportunity of proving that he had not declined the duel from personal fear. Thereupon Graves



sent a challenge to Cilley by Wise. They fought with rifles and Cilley fell. Webb from that time to the present has never spoken to Wise, and has always held him morally responsible for the sad result, as also did Graves and all who knew the particulars of the affair. In the Presidential contest of 1844 Mr. Wise attempted to make Mr. Clay responsible for the death of Mr. Cilley; but Mr. Clay called forth the statement from Mr. Graves which completely exonerated Mr. Clay; and in which he stated that after the matter had been finally settled, to the entire satisfaction of General Webb and himself, Mr. Wise had induced him to demand from Mr. Cilley the letter that led to the duel, in direct opposition to the entreaties of Webb; and further, that Mr. Clay knew nothing of the matter until after Mr. Cilley had refused to sign the letter, which Mr. Wise had counseled, and when the question of veracity had thus been raised, and a fight became inevitable.

We abstain from any allusion to the steps taken by General Webb to prevent this duel. Suffice it to say, they were such as the circumstances justified and seemed to require; and which met the decided approval of his personal and political friends in Washington—the whole affair having assumed a party character.

Webb's duel with Marshall is of more recent occurrence, but still the circumstances attending it have generally been the subject of misrepresentation. Webb wrote a severe censure upon those members of Congress who sought to repeal the Bankrupt Law before it went into effect; but expressly and in terms excepted the Whig delegation of Kentucky from such censure, because they had all opposed its passage at the previous session when it became a law. On the following morning a New York journal stated that Webb had charged the entire Whig delegation from Kentucky with being bribed to vote for a repeal of the law! Thomas F. Marshall, a member of Congress from Kentucky, and nephew of Chief Justice Marshall, saw this paragraph; and, not knowing that it was an entire misrepresentation of what had appeared in the *Courier and Enquirer*, read it from his place in the House of Represent-

atives, and poured forth a torrent of abuse upon the head of the supposed offender. When this speech reached Webb he promptly inclosed to Marshall the article in the *Courier and Enquirer*, which had been so perverted, and, after reading him a lecture for putting faith in any thing that appeared in the print which had misled him (Marshall), requested of him to make the necessary correction on the floor of the House, in order that it might follow through the same channels by which his speech had gone to the public. Webb and Marshall were unknown to each other personally ; but had corresponded on political subjects—both being prominent Whigs, and friends of Henry Clay. Not doubting but Marshall would cheerfully correct his error, Webb proceeded in his letter to furnish full details of the political movements and Mr. Clay's prospects in this State at the approaching election—1844. It so happened that when Marshall assailed Webb upon such insufficient authority, and also when he received Webb's letter calling his attention to the gross falsehood of the information upon which he had acted, he was laboring under one of those attacks which irregular habits at that time rendered of frequent occurrence, and which ultimately impaired one of the most brilliant intellects of the day. He took no notice of Webb's letter, and the Washington correspondent of the New York journal referred to announced that he did not intend to make any correction. This drew from Webb a peremptory demand for retraction, to which no answer was returned ; and a very sharp article in the *Courier and Enquirer* followed. Marshall came to New York to defend Monroe Edwards, the forger, and devoted a large portion of his speech to an attack upon Webb—first sending word to Webb that it was his intention so to do, and inviting him to come and hear him. Webb went and took his reporter's seat, directly in front of Marshall, and within a few feet of him ; and, when he had finished, wrote a description of the speech and his opinion of the man. A challenge followed ; and the parties fought at ten paces in Delaware, near Wilmington. Webb's first shot passed under Marshall's foot, and his second just above his foot.

Marshall's first shot was wide of his mark, and his second passed through Webb's knee. When Webb fell and discovered that the joint of his knee remained perfect, he expressed his satisfaction at the result, and appealed to his friends to bear witness that he had declared his intention not to take Marshall's life, which had led to a threat on their part not to accompany him to the field if he persisted in his intention. Marshall's friend, who had caught Webb when falling, heard his declaration; and a few minutes afterwards demanded a third shot! This was not permitted, and the parties separated, never having spoken to each other, and Webb never having seen his adversary except in Court and on the field. Marshall's friend wrote to Commodore Ridgely, of the Navy, inquiring whether Marshall was not entitled to challenge Webb again as soon as he recovered? The Commodore replied, "beyond doubt, if he can find a *gentleman* willing to become the bearer of the challenge."

This duel created great excitement, and the grand Jury found a bill of indictment against Webb, under the law which punishes with imprisonment in the State prison for two years, the crime of leaving the State with the *intention* of fighting a duel, whether such duel be fought or not. With one voice, and without distinction of party, the community cried shame upon such persecution under color of a law virtually obsolete. On being arraigned Webb pleaded guilty to the indictment, as he could not well avoid doing, being on crutches at the time, and pleaded the necessity of the case with his avowed principles—principles which he had imbibed in the army, and which belonged to his early profession. He urged in extenuation public sentiment, and even the practice of his *Judges*—a majority of whom had violated the obsolete law under which he was indicted, and which had been revived for the purpose of gratifying personal and party hostility. He also showed by a document duly authenticated, and placed in the hands of a friend before he left for the meeting, that, having borne the character of one of the best shots in the army, he considered the life of his adversary at his mercy, but that under no circumstances would he take it; that he should

fire at his legs only, and if hit at all it would be below the knee. All this was communicated to the friends who accompanied him to the ground, and who threatened in vain to withdraw from him if he did not change his determination.

The Court, as in duty bound, entered the verdict of Guilty, and remanded him to prison. On the following day he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment at hard labor in the State prison. A degree of excitement followed the announcement of this sentence, which has rarely been witnessed in this city. Confined in the spacious Grand Jury room of the "Tombs," awaiting the action of the Executive, his prison from 9 A. M. till lock-up hour at night, was a constant levee, composed of our best citizens, including clergymen of various denominations, who, much as they abhorred the practice of duelling, detested still more the attempt of persecution against the one who, while he freely exposed his own life in obedience to his recognition of a principle, yet had not attempted the life of his adversary, and that adversary calmly occupied his seat in Congress, unharmed, through the forbearance of one whose life he sought without cause, and who was now suffering for that forbearance. All classes were equally excited by this manifest injustice, and a petition with seventeen thousand signatures, embracing all that was estimable in the clergy, the bar, the mercantile community, and the people at large, urged upon the Governor a full and free pardon of the accused. The pardon came in due time, and after two weeks of imprisonment in the city prison, General Webb was once more at large, never again, we hope and believe, to be involved in another affair of honor.

In 1848, General Webb lost his wife, and he has since married Laura Virginia, the youngest daughter of Jacob Cram, Esq., one of our oldest and most respected citizens, who was a contemporary and class-mate of Daniel Webster and Lewis Cass, at Exeter Academy in 1798.

In 1849 General Webb was appointed minister to Austria; but in the following session of the Senate, that body refused to confirm



him—Mr. Clay taking the lead in opposition to him. After eighteen years of personal devotion to Mr. Clay, General Webb advocated the nomination of General Taylor for the Presidency in preference to his old chief—not from any want of confidence in Mr. Clay, but because he had informed both Mr. Crittenden and General Webb, that he would not be a candidate; and they, in consequence, had come out for General Taylor.

The political career of General Webb is too well known to require any comment. He entered political life from the army in utter ignorance of party men and party requirements, and acting simply from his impulses of right, he soon found himself as much at variance with his political associates as with his political opponents. In two months after General Jackson's inauguration he was warm in his condemnation of him for striking certain officers from the roll of the navy; and being in favor of both a Tariff and a United States Bank when General Jackson advocated them, when the President and his party abandoned those measures and Jackson removed the public deposits from the Bank of the United States General Webb openly abandoned his support. He then aided in consolidating, and gave the name of *Whig* to the elements of opposition to the Democracy; and no one man has ever exercised more influence in any party than General Webb commanded in the councils of the late Whig party of the country. And yet he has always distinctly avowed that he recognizes no allegiance to party, except just so far as the success of his principles are involved; and in fearlessly carrying out this avowal amidst no ordinary amount of obloquy and censure he has frequently been found in opposition to his party in refusing to support men whose political integrity he doubted. Thus he has, time and again, opposed the gubernatorial, senatorial, congressional, and mayoralty nominations of his party when he could not approve of the selection, and when such opposition involved no principle; while he has as frequently given his support to nominations which he could not heartily approve, simply because grave principles were involved in success.



He has latterly been charged with an abandonment of his opposition to the intermeddling with Southern institutions by Northern Abolitionists. But there is no truth whatever in the charge. He is as earnest an advocate of the constitutional rights of the South now, as he ever was; and as open in his condemnation of all who, under any pretense whatever, presume to assail them. But he is equally opposed to the extension of slavery into free territory; and more especially when the general government, meddling with what does not concern it, and in violation of the Constitution, legislates upon a question which belongs solely to the States, and ventures the attempt to force the institution upon a people who openly avow their abhorrence of it. He has always expressed the conviction that Slavery is a curse to the master and to the soil upon which it exists, rather than to the party enslaved, in the regions where it lawfully exists; and that there the master, more than the slave, is entitled to our sympathy. Even pending the last Presidential contest, and in the very hottest of the fight, when others were frequently led astray by the excitement of the moment, General Webb thus spoke at Tippecanoe in Indiana to the largest assembly of freemen ever congregated in the United States:—

“You have been told that this is a war against the institution of Slavery, and the rights of our fellow-citizens of the Slaveholding States under the Constitution of the Union. But all this is false, and known to be false by those who make the charge. We war not against Slavery, but against its extension into territory now free; and, if I know myself, I would sooner sever this right arm from my body, than stand before you this day, advocating any, the slightest interference with the purely local institution of Slavery where it righteously exists. For twenty-nine consecutive years, I have stood before the public the only responsible editor of one of the leading journals of the United States; and during twenty-seven years of that time, the South have never had a more determined or zealous advocate for all their constitutional rights. And it is my pride, as it is my duty to declare, that, now and hereafter, they will always find

in me, in my press, and in my accomplished associates, the same devotion to their constitutional rights which has heretofore called forth their admiration and applause. But when Slavery becomes *aggressive*—when its advocates cease to be content with its being a *local* institution and with the protection which the Constitution gives it, and aim to render it *national*; when the slaveocracy openly repudiate the most solemn compacts, and, glorying in their dishonor, demand that it shall be extended into territory now free, by the direct legislation of Congress; when they shamefully boast of their violation of plighted faith, and impudently threaten to “conquer” the freemen of the North and compel their submission; when they proclaim that Slavery is a blessing and not a curse, as they have always admitted in times past; when they repudiate the sentiments of Washington and Jefferson, and ridicule the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and denounce it as a “Rhetorical Flourish,” and an abstraction; and when they impudently threaten *disunion* if the North will not tamely submit to their impudent and arrogant demands—it becomes the duty of every honest citizen to rally in defense of Freedom, and sternly to decree that the institution of Slavery shall not be extended north of the Compromise line of 1820. In so doing we shall not lose sight of our duty to our Southern brethren and of the Constitution; and palsied be the tongue that would utter one word in derogation of either.”

In conclusion General Webb said: “All—every thing, therefore, depends upon the preservation of Kansas to freedom, and adherence to the compromise of 1820. Abandon that great gate to the South and West to Slavery, and you not only give up the whole Northwest to the incubus of slave-labor but you abandon, at once and forever, Utah, New Mexico, California, and Mexico herself, when she comes to us, to the tender mercies of the slaveocracy.

“Are you prepared for such a contingency? Men of Indiana, and you of Illinois and Wisconsin, can you—will you, by a neglect of the most solemn duty which freemen were ever called upon to discharge, become parties to so great a crime against the future of

this vast continent? I hope not, and I trust not. Remember that the institution of Slavery is of man, and has its origin in his vices and his crimes; while Freedom is the child of Heaven, and was the great boon of God to man, whom he created after his own image, and but little lower than the angels, and gave 'him dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the Earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the Earth,' but not over the limbs and thews and sinews of his fellow man.

"Be faithful, then, to yourselves, to your posterity, to your country, and to your God, on the 4th of November next. And let your watchword be—*Freedom, Liberty, Union. Freedom and Liberty, one and inseparable, now and forever; and Union—everlasting Union among the States—for our own benefit, and for the benefit of mankind; and for the preservation of Freedom and Liberty.*"

We can not better conclude this sketch, already much longer than we designed, than by some reference to his habits as a writer, and his bearing as an employer. It has been said by good judges, that General Webb will prepare more editorial matter for the press in a given time, and that too when surrounded by people conversing on different topics, than any other journalist; and this is unquestionably true. He writes rapidly and with very little correction. No matter how grave the topic, he rarely looks over a manuscript—never if he is to see a "proof" of his work.

As an employer, few men enjoy such devoted attachment on the part of those by whom he is surrounded. His directions are often communicated with a prompt brevity indicative of his having once worn the epaulet; but it needs only a cheerful compliance to win Webb's lasting regard. He is considerate and indulgent towards those who manifest an interest in his affairs, and exhibits a thoughtful regard for the welfare of those in his employ, which develops the kindness and utter unselfishness of his disposition.

A year or two since, a gentleman celebrated the twenty-first anniversary of his connection with the *Courier and Enquirer* by a fes-

tival, to which he invited all who had, in any capacity, been his fellow-laborers in the establishment during that long period. *Eleven* persons met on that occasion, and their aggregate term of service on the paper amounted to *two hundred and seventy-three years*. This certainly is testimony of the highest practical value to General Webb's character as an employer. Every one of the eleven felt and expressed sentiments toward him which it would be doing injustice to denominate by any title less expressive than *affection*. And when in reply to an invitation which had been extended to General Webb to be present (he being then absent from the city), a written reply was read, filled with the kindest expressions of attachment for what he termed his "Old Guard," there was not a dry eye present. Such was a tribute which any man might point to with great pride.

In using the foregoing sketch, prepared in 1858, we are admonished by the publishers that our allotted space is nearly consumed, and consequently we can only allude to certain prominent events in the life of General Webb. We regret this the less, because we know that the General is preparing, for publication after his death, an autobiography which will include a complete history of the country from 1827, when he took charge of the *Courier*, up to the present time.

Such a history will be invaluable, because it will be generally conceded that no one individual in the United States was so intimately acquainted with our public men, and so closely connected with all political events of the day, from 1827 to 1850, as was General Webb. During that eventful period, he was emphatically a national politician, and left State politics to Thurlow Weed, William H. Seward, and other local politicians. Mr. Weed, who is still living, never meddled much in general politics until the war of the rebellion; and when he did was sure to be defeated, as in the nomination of Harrison, Taylor, and Lincoln, all of which he opposed, while the nomination of General Scott which he accomplished in opposition to General Webb, who advocated Mr. Webster, and Colonel Fremont in opposition to Judge McLean,



who was supported by General Webb, he was disastrously defeated. For a period of thirty years, Mr. Weed was all-powerful in the Whig party, and for a great portion of that time he governed the State of New York, and governed it well too, and yet it is a remarkable fact that no gentleman was ever elected President of the United States, whose nomination he did not resist and strive to defeat. It can not be denied, however, that Thurlow Weed with the *Evening Journal*, Horace Greeley with the *New York Tribune*, and General Webb with the *Courier and Enquirer* gave to William H. Seward all his prominence with the American people. The nomination of General Taylor was due in a large measure to General Webb; who, without concert with anybody, and without the knowledge of his associates, the late Charles King and Henry J. Raymond,—both in favor of General Scott's nomination—astonished the public by formally nominating General Taylor in the *Courier and Enquirer*, as its candidate for the Presidency. He then organized the well-known Taylor Committee, placing Mr. Hugh Maxwell at its head, and so conducted the campaign, that although the State of New York did not send a solitary Taylor delegate to the Convention, and under General Webb's direction placed on the ticket for Vice-President Millard Fillmore, who, with his friends, was in active opposition to General Taylor's nomination. It was a master-stroke of policy, and secured the triumph of the Whig party.

In 1856 it became manifest to every far-seeing politician that the approaching Presidential election would exert a momentous influence for good or evil upon the future of the country, as it would directly involve the question of slavery extension, and more or less jeopard the Union itself. The South invited and courted the contest; and it was doubtless with that view that the outrageous personal assault was made upon Senator Sumner in the Senate Chamber, on the 22d of May, 1856, with the knowledge, and we might almost say by direction, of the very men who subsequently became the leaders in the great rebellion of 1861.



Their treason was among themselves an established and recognized purpose, and at that very time, and even anterior to it, Jefferson Davis, then Secretary of War, was intriguing with officers of the army and punishing by exile from the sea-board all of any promise whom he could not seduce from their allegiance.

General Webb was spending the winter in Washington, and, when the assault had been made, addressed the leading Southern gentlemen in a speech before Brown's Hotel, in language which they would not have tolerated from any other person. But they bore it from General Webb, because they well knew that while he was prepared to resist to the death slavery extension, he had ever opposed any legislative interference with slavery where it constitutionally existed as a local State institution, without any nationality, and with which the nation—the general Government—could not rightfully interfere.

The North, which had so long and so patiently submitted to the arrogance and absurd pretensions of the South, was aroused as one man by this dastardly outrage upon a Senator in Congress in his seat in the Senate Chamber, thus violating the sanctity of the place, at the same time that the Constitution was outraged, and the right of free speech openly set at defiance. Large public meetings promptly assembled in the Northern cities and towns; and it was well known that the few Northern men at Washington who dared to speak of the outrage as it merited were in hourly danger of their lives. General Webb's course was well known, and at the great public meeting at Masonic Hall—the largest that had ever taken place in the city of New York—the late Charles King, then President of Columbia College, and who for more than ten years had been an associate of General Webb in the *Courier and Enquirer*, in a fervid and soul-stirring speech urging resistance to Southern arrogance and the necessity of the North being represented by fearless, outspoken men, said, "Thank God we have one New Yorker in Washington, the editor of the *Courier and Enquirer*,

who fears neither man nor devil; but he should not be left to fight this battle alone."

Some one of General Webb's associates in the *Courier and Enquirer*, in a brief paragraph of six lines, spoke of the assault upon Sumner, as "a cowardly affair," as did the whole Northern press.

When this reached Washington, it was determined by the chivalry to make capital out of the fact that General Webb, since 1848, was known to be a member of the Episcopal Church, and of course debarred from duelling. It was accordingly arranged that Brooks should challenge him, although their personal relations were of the most friendly character.

General Quitman, a Northern man living at the South, a class-mate and personal friend of General Webb, was required to be the bearer of the challenge. He called accordingly and explained his business; at the same time apologizing for being the bearer of such a message to his life-long friend, by declaring that no Northern man could live at the South without being more pro-slavery than the Southerners—that he was called upon to be the bearer of this message as a test of his Southern principles; and that if he refused he would be compelled to abandon the South as a residence. He had stipulated, however, that another should take his place on the field, after he, Quitman, had made all the preparatory arrangements.

General Webb declared that he held himself personally responsible for whatever was published in the *Courier and Enquirer*; but inasmuch as he had written for publication over his own signature an account of Brooks' assault upon Sumner far more offensive than the paragraph upon which the challenge was placed, and as that letter would arrive the next morning, and it was better to fight for what he had written after mature deliberation, instead of a mere passing paragraph written by he did not know whom, and he asked his old friend to do him the favor to withhold the challenge until the next morning, under the assurance that it would be accepted and the meeting take place at five in the afternoon. He

then added, "It may be that you are astonished at my accepting this challenge, knowing as you do that I am a communicant in the church; but ask yourself whether that fact, in your judgment, would or should prevent either you or me leading an army into battle in defense of our soil or our institutions? Assuredly not. I have no personal difficulty with Colonel Brooks. Our social relations are of the most friendly character, and we dined together at Governor Aiken's only three days ago. This is a public, not a private quarrel. It involves the great and fundamental principles upon which our institutions are based; and the duty of resisting this assault upon those institutions is quite as obligatory as it would be to resist an invading army. Consequently I shall accept the challenge immediately on its presentation to-morrow morning, appointing the meeting for five in the afternoon, and in the mean time I shall prepare my letter of acceptance, so as to render it manifest that this is a public and not a private affair."

General Quitman, as gallant a gentleman as any in the country, admitted the justice of these views. On the following morning, the *Courier and Enquirer* containing General Webb's letter arrived in Washington, and it was far more offensive than the poor little paragraph which was made the pretext for the challenge. A meeting of the South Carolina delegation was called. The letter was read, paragraph by paragraph; and, after a session of two hours, Governor Aiken was sent to General Webb to say that the challenge written but not delivered, on the day previous, was withdrawn.

General Webb was in England when the Crimean war commenced and in daily intercourse with such men as the Duke of Newcastle, Earls Ellesmere, Russell, Grosvenor, and Granville, and Lord Palmerston, the late Marquis of Lansdowne, etc., etc. Indeed, it was truly said that up to that time, he and Mr. Charles Sumner had been more cordially received into English society and English country houses, than any other Americans who had ever visited England. They were fine specimens physically, socially, and mentally, of

American gentlemen. The *London Times*, always ready to abuse and defame the United States, pretended to have information that Russian privateers were being fitted out in the United States with the sanction of our government. This was exceedingly annoying to the English government, because its tendency was to derange commerce, and seriously affect the money market. And although the ministry had no doubt that it was a mere stock-jobbing slander, for which the "Thunderer" was well paid, Lord Clarendon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Lord Palmerston, urged General Webb to write an article on our neutrality laws, over his own signature, to be published in the *Times*. He consented to do so, provided the *Times* should be made to publish all he wrote without change or omission; and the late Charles Greville, Clerk of the Privy Council, was appointed to secure its insertion. The editor demurred, but Greville, speaking in the name and with the authority of the ministry, insisted; and finally the editor consented to make the publication, reserving to himself the right of abusing General Webb. Greville consented, and the column of abuse with which General Webb's letter was accompanied, only rendered more conspicuous his defense of our neutrality laws. It was a masterly production and produced a great sensation. At a later period of the war General Webb wrote for the *Times*, at the solicitation of the cabinet, another letter on the same subject, and it was introduced with a very favorable notice of the writer.

Although General Webb opposed the nomination of General Fremont for the Presidency, on the ground that he was not available, and advocated the nomination of Judge McLean, who could have carried Pennsylvania and been elected, he entered very warmly into the campaign, and on the battle ground of Tippecanoe, made one of the most eloquent and effective speeches of the campaign; so effective that it was adopted as a "campaign document," of which millions were printed and circulated. It was considered at the time, and has since been alluded to on the floor of Congress, as the ablest argument against slavery-extension that has ever



appeared. It is briefly alluded to in Mr. Andrews' sketch of General Webb.

From 1857 to 1861, the *Courier and Enquirer* never ceased to predict the rebellion and the duty of putting it down by force of arms, and of preserving the Union at all hazards, even if in so doing, it should become necessary to manumit and arm the slave population. The attack and surrender of Fort Sumter opened the war. At the instigation of General Scott, General Webb applied to be appointed one of the new major-generals to conduct it. He had, however, charged Major Anderson with treachery in the hasty and uncalled-for surrender of Fort Sumter, after forty-eight hours bombardment without injury to the garrison. Kentucky was wavering, and Mr. Seward, frightened at the prospect of war, and ready to compromise with the South, and guarantee the protection of slavery where it existed, suggested that to give General Webb a higher grade than had been given to Major Anderson, would be to ignore the policy of the administration, which had caused it to approve the surrender of Fort Sumter. General Webb was accordingly offered the rank of Brigadier-General. To have accepted would have made him the junior of gentlemen whom he had ranked when in the army; and with the approbation of his friend, General Scott, he refused the appointment. Thus Major Anderson was made a Brigadier, never to be employed, and General Webb was ruled out of the service; and all to save Kentucky, which, in fact, was in no way influenced by this condoning of Anderson's unwarrantable surrender of Sumter. And this was the result of Mr. Seward's temporizing policy. Seward owed more to Webb than to any other man living, except Thurlow Weed; but from the day he became Secretary of State he ignored all past obligations, personal and political, and never hesitated to sacrifice his friends, whenever, in his judgment, it was his interest to do so. Colonel Hamilton, in his reminiscences of Van Buren, says, "on one occasion he was suspected of being true to a friend." No such suspicion will ever attach to the late Secretary of State.



General Webb was then appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, minister to Constantinople, without previously consulting him. Immediately on seeing the fact announced in the press, he declined the appointment by telegraph; and his name was then sent to the Senate, as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the Empire of Brazil, and unanimously confirmed. He repaired to Washington and accepted the office, on condition that whatever he did in the discharge of his mission should be at once approved, or disapproved, and not treasured up to be acted upon at a future period. This was cheerfully conceded by President Lincoln, who, when asked for instructions, said, in his peculiar manner, "You, who, more than a third of a century, have been the editor of one of the leading presses of the country, and who from necessity, are familiar with European politics and international affairs generally, ask me, an Illinois lawyer, to give you instructions for your guidance in Brazil under the trying circumstances by which you are sure to be surrounded. I have none to give you. On reflection, yes. I'll give you instructions. Go to your post and do your duty." And these were the only instructions he received, except in special cases, during his eight years service in Brazil.

When Louis Napoleon came to this country an exile, in 1835, the first person with whom he became acquainted, was General Webb; and from the time he left the country until as recently as June last they regularly corresponded. The fact of their friendly relations became known to the public through the General's staunch support of the Prince, President, and Emperor, in the columns of the *Courier and Enquirer*, and from the General's publishing a card vindicating the Emperor from charges made in New York, which in fact had no connection whatever with him, but were based on the conduct of his cousin, also known as Prince Napoleon, and who was an habitué of drinking saloons, and indulged in the amusement of smashing the street lamps, followed by a temporary residence in the Tombs. The Emperor had said, too, at Compeigne

to Mr Seward, that of all his correspondents there was one only who not only wrote him the truth but the whole truth. Consequently, when General Webb sailed for Brazil, via Europe, President Lincoln requested him to see his friend, the Emperor, and explain to him the cause of the rebellion, our determination to put it down, and our ability to maintain the blockade of the Southern coast if not interfered with. They met at Fountainbleau by appointment; and General Webb's report was entirely satisfactory. The report of our minister in Paris, Mr. Dayton, to the Department of State, shows how important was that interview upon the then state of affairs. It took place on the 31st of July, 1861; and up to that time, Mr. Dayton had never seen the Emperor except on the presentation of his credentials at the end of March; while, as Mr. Dayton said, Slidell and the other rebel commissioners had constant access to him.

From France General Webb repaired to London, and while there, spent a day with Lord John Russell at Pembroke Lodge, Richmond, and posted him up very thoroughly in regard to our affairs. The General was well known to Lord John, who invited him to visit him at the Lodge for the express purpose of discussing American affairs. This proceeding was entirely voluntary on the part of General Webb, but he made a report of his visit and interview to Mr. Seward.

General Webb reached his post, Rio Janeiro, on the 4th of October, 1861; and as we have frequently heard him say, he never labored harder than during the ensuing four years. All the English pirates that sailed from England to prey upon our commerce, visited Brazil, and involved a discussion with the government, which embraced almost every conceivable question of international law. At one time the *Alabama*, *Florida*, and *Georgia* were in the port of Bahia, and their officers feasted and fêted by the Brazilian authorities.

When General Webb arrived at Rio, there was no United States minister at the Brazilian capital—Mr. Meade, a notorious and

open-mouthed traitor, having run away from his mission immediately upon the breaking out of the rebellion; and our consul, Scott, also a Virginia rebel, having preceded his departure by sending to the Confederate authorities a list of American vessels in port and about sailing, together with the value of their respective cargoes.

The Hon. Richard Parsons had arrived and entered upon the duties of his consulate before General Webb reached Rio. The consul reported to the minister, that of the forty-seven American vessels then in port, seven-eighths of them were Southern and displayed from some part of the rigging the secession flag; and he was utterly without authority to prevent it, as the government and people, and the whole foreign population, but especially the English, were in favor of the rebels and openly proclaimed and rejoiced in the fact that the American Union was destroyed. This was on the 4th; on the 8th General Webb issued an order to the consul, to take the necessary police force and visit every American vessel in the harbor of Rio; and if he found a secession flag on board, no matter whether at the peak, the fore, or in the cabin (they pretended to use them as signals), to displace the captain, break up the voyage and send her to New York under charge of the mate. And further, to grant no clearance in future to any American vessel, without first compelling the captain to take an oath of allegiance, the form of which he then prescribed. This was the precursor of the subsequent regulation on the subject.

The masters of the American shipping in port were accordingly assembled at the consulate, and Mr. Parsons' description of the scene that followed is very amusing. Of course they abused him as well as the minister; when he replied—"I am only a subordinate, and, like yourselves, am bound to obey the minister. Why abuse me? If you do not like the order, why not go to the minister's hotel and remonstrate?" One of the masters immediately replied: "Oh! he be d—d, I know him, and you might as well ask a porpoise to give you a tow as to attempt to change the old curse."

The visit was made, no secession flags were found ; and ultimately every master, in order to obtain his clearance papers, took the required oath of allegiance, with very emphatic *blessings* on the minister.

General Webb had knowingly transcended the law, and considered himself justified in so doing. The administration were well pleased at what he had done, and caused him to be advised of their satisfaction, while unable officially to approve his act. But public opinion was daily growing stronger, and demanding the assumption of extraordinary powers by those in authority, and the following mail from the United States conveyed to the minister a formal approval of his conduct.

We have said that public sentiment in Rio Janeiro and throughout Brazil was altogether in favor of the rebels. Among foreigners the English were the most numerous ; and of course, to a man, were jubilant over the assumed destruction of the Union. His Excellency, W. Dugald Christie, the English envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, encouraged and led this feeling. He was a clever but most disagreeable man, who had at different times quarreled with all his colleagues as well as his secretaries and attachés, and it was predicted that he would, of course, quarrel with General Webb. He did so. In his own house, not addressed to the United States Minister, but loud enough to be heard by him, he repeatedly indulged in the most offensive and irritating language, always predicting the triumph of the rebels. On one occasion after predicting the failure of the Union, he added, "the descendants of the Puritans must necessarily be inferior in courage to the rebels ; because wanting in the chivalry which pertains to the gentle blood of the Cavaliers."

Shortly after, at a whist-table, Christie and Webb partners, and the envoys of Russia and Prussia their opponents—other ministers looking on, Christie was impertinent. General Webb laid down his cards and told Mr. Christie "he considered his language impertinent, and it was his custom to punish impertinence. Therefore if he



ever again indulged in impertinent language or even looked impertinently at him, he would horsewhip him within an inch of his life." Christie demanded an apology or a meeting. A meeting at sunrise was the response. Mr. Christie then recollected that he was a member of the anti-dueling society, withdrew his demand for satisfaction, and apologized for his conduct. He was recalled from Brazil in disgrace and turned out of the English diplomatic corps, never again to be employed.

The Confederate privateers—pirates in fact—gave General Webb full employment ; and he early proclaimed in Brazil that England would be required to pay for all the injuries inflicted by the *Alabama*. We quote from a dispatch dated Rio, May 7, 1863 :—

"The English steamer also brought me dispatches from our consuls at Pernambuco and Bahia, copies of which I inclose marked 1 and 2. These came to hand by the second delivery on Monday evening just as I was going to a diplomatic dinner given by the minister of Prussia to the late Internuncio of the Pope, who leaves here in consequence of being promoted to Nuncio at Vienna ; and to whom I gave a complimentary dinner, including every member of the diplomatic corps, last week, his leaving here making me *senior*, and the honor and the *expense* of such an entertainment having become a duty.

"Naturally at the dinner at M. d'Eichman's, which was a very splendid affair, the doings of the *Alabama*, at Fernando de Noronha and in Brazilian waters, were discussed ; when I took occasion to say, that while the disgrace, if disgrace there was, in having our commerce thus preyed upon, was all ours, it was somewhat consolatory to know, that the expense and cost of the *Alabama* piracies would all fall on England. The English Legation laughed and expressed surprise at this, which I had said in a pleasant tone, and as if half in badinage, when I replied more seriously, that I was quite in earnest and sorry to see such a waste of treasure to be made good by England for not having prevented the *Alabama* sailing from the Mersey, after we had furnished satisfactory testimony of her



character and intentions long before she sailed. It was remarked that the English government had tried to stop her, but failed by reason of the illness of the law officer of the crown and the delay created by that illness. I said, 'Precisely so; but therein consists England's responsibility. We discharged our whole duty, and at so early a day, that there existed no difficulty in arresting the pirate. The law officers of the crown decided that it was incumbent upon the government to prevent her sailing, but for reasons with which we have nothing to do, it was not *convenient* to decide upon the arrest until after her sailing. That is England's misfortune, and the *Alabama* is at this moment a piratical vessel, preying upon American commerce, built in an English port, with English capital, manned by *Englishmen*, and to all intents and purposes an English pirate (I do not use the word offensively to England), because she was built and armed by and belongs to Englishmen; sailed from an English port to which only she belongs, and has never been in American waters either North or South."

Shortly after Mr. Christie had been driven away from Brazil, English arrogance received a terrible rebuke from the American minister. Four rebel vessels in the harbor of Rio, sought to escape condemnation under our laws, by changing their flag in a foreign port. This could only be legally effected by the United States consul's being present at, and approving the sale. The vessels were advertised, and the consul was required to give notice that he would not be present; and, consequently, the sale could not be legally made. The sale proceeded notwithstanding. Subsequently the English consignees got up another sale on the plea of indebtedness. General Webb asked the Brazilian court to prohibit the sale. In the mean time the British consul gave one of the rebel vessels the English flag and English papers, in defiance of General Webb's threats of capture if she went to sea. The consul was obstinate, and the English elated in the highest degree. They had an English fleet present; and England had never had her arrogance rebuked in a foreign port.

So proclamation was made that the *Alice Grey*, with English papers and under an English flag, would go to sea on a certain Sunday morning. The hills surrounding Rio, and all the shipping in the harbor were alive with human beings anxious to witness the affair, because the American minister had threatened to capture her; and he never failed to keep his word. At the hour fixed, the *Alice Grey*, in tow of a steamer, passed out of the harbor; and shortly after, Captain, now Admiral, Glisson, who knew his duty, and was always ready to discharge it, steamed out in pursuit. He passed close under the sterns of the British and French admirals' ships; and the Frenchman, to show his contempt for the English, stood on deck in full uniform, his band playing Yankee Doodle, and his six hundred seamen in the rigging. The *Alice Grey* never left the Brazilian waters, and after going north some twenty miles with the United States ship *Mohican* on her quarter, she returned to the harbor just before dark. Glisson remained out all night watching the entrance to the harbor; and when he came in the next morning, the old French Admiral was again on deck in his uniform, his band playing "See the Conquering Hero Comes," and his crew in the rigging.

These things continued to produce a most salutary effect upon the public mind; and Americans began to hold up their heads. Then came the cutting out of the pirate *Florida*, from the harbor of Bahia and when lying under the guns of the Brazilian fort. The excitement was intense and the British residents were rejoiced to know that the American minister was to receive his passports. And such was the intention of the cabinet; but instead thereof the government was content with demanding explanations. A rapid interchange of notes took place; and on the following morning, the correspondence was published, and General Webb and suite attended the marriage of Count d'Eu to the Princess Imperial of Brazil. From General Webb's note to the Minister of Foreign Affairs we extract the following:—

"Beyond all peradventure, the object of Great Britain in recognizing as belligerents those in rebellion against the government of

the United States, was, if we take her leading press and the speeches of many of her statesmen, in and out of Parliament, as exponents of her purpose, to accomplish by indirect means what she did not deem it prudent to attempt by a more manly course. She had just as much right to declare our government destroyed and the Union broken up by a recognition of the sovereignty and independence of our rebels within two weeks after hearing of the rebellion, as she had to give them, by proclamation, the rights of belligerents. But she wanted the manliness to do this in the face of Europe and the just indignation which she would thereby have brought upon herself; and she therefore, in the exercise of her discretion, resorted to a measure which she well knew was a *casus belli*, but which she foresaw we were not in a position to treat as such; and the consequence of which, she had a right to suppose, as did our rebels, would eventually be a disruption of the great American Republic."

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"Entertaining these sentiments and feelings towards Brazil, it will be a source of unfeigned grief, and of very sincere regret to the government of the United States, to learn that a commander in her navy, *without instructions or authority of any kind*, should have taken upon himself the responsibility of capturing one of the piratical cruisers of our rebels while lying in the harbor of Bahia; and the undersigned feels authorized to assure your Excellency, that every reparation which honor and justice demand will be most frankly tendered; more frankly and more promptly than if the same act had been committed by an American cruiser in the waters of the most powerful maritime nations of the world. But in so doing, the government of the United States will undoubtedly make the *amende honorable* under protest. She will tell Brazil that she denies *in toto* the right of any nation or nations, immediately upon the breaking out of a rebellion in the dominions of a friendly power—without inquiry or investigation of any kind, and without knowledge of, or even pretending to know, the merits of the quarrel; to declare such rebels a belligerent power—and, by proclamation, make them

in the ports of the world, the equals of the nation against which they are in rebellion. She will insist, that until their nationality is recognized, they can not invest their armed vessels with the nationality necessary to set forth a vessel of war, and she will insist that all such vessels too are no more or no less than Pirates. She will proclaim, as heretofore, that a vessel built in an *English* port by *English* artisans and with *English* funds; armed and equipped by *Englishmen*; with *Englishmen* to man and fight her; sailing from an *English* port under *English* colors, with the avowed purpose of preying upon and destroying the commerce of a friendly Power which happens to be her naval and commercial rival, and which does so prey upon and destroy the commerce of the friendly power under the ridiculous plea that she is a vessel of war belonging to the rebels—without ever having visited a rebel port—is a *Pirate*, and that the nation whose commerce she molests, has a right, according to every principle of equity and justice which obtains among civilized and Christian communities, to pursue and destroy her in any port and any harbor of the world."

For twenty years the claims of the people of the United States upon the government of Brazil had been ignored or treated with contempt. General Webb made a thorough investigation into the merits of these claims, and selected four, the payment of which he should insist upon. They were respectively of thirteen, fifteen, sixteen, and twenty-one years' standing; and they were all paid; but not until on two occasions a suspension of diplomatic intercourse was threatened. In the case of the *Canada*, a claim of thirteen years' standing, General Webb actually suspended diplomatic relations with Brazil and demanded his passports. They were sent; but at the last moment Brazil repented, apologized, and withdrew the offensive dispatch. The claim has since been referred to the British minister in Washington, who has rendered an award for the whole amount claimed; and it has been paid by the Brazilian government.

On two other occasions, General Webb was constrained to threat-



en to close his mission unless the Brazilian government did its duty. Mr. Washburn, our minister to Paraguay, returning to his mission after a leave of absence, was prohibited by the Brazilian commander-in-chief from returning through the line of blockade on the Paraguay. The American Admiral, Godon, countenanced the proceeding of the Brazilian official. General Webb was absent on furlough; and when he returned to Rio and discovered that Mr. Washburn had been kept away from his post for nearly a year by the impudence of the Brazilian commandant and the subserviency of an American admiral, he gave the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs just four hours to decide, whether he would send him an order for Mr. Washburn to pass their lines or his passports. The order, and not the passports, came. At the expiration of two years Mr. Washburn's position in Paraguay became so dangerous, that our government ordered Admiral Davis to detach a gun-boat from the squadron on the Brazil station, to go to Asuncion and bring Mr. Washburn and family from Paraguay. The Steamer *Wasp* was accordingly sent after him, and it was stopped by the Brazilian commandant at the blockading lines, detained a long time, and finally sent back to Montevideo. Mr. Washburn's position was one of great peril; the Brazilian government was obstinate; and although General Webb had no instructions to guide him, he threatened to close his mission unless the *Wasp* was permitted to go up the Paraguay. The Ministry, a liberal one, thereupon resigned. It was succeeded by a monarchical, pro-slavery, and conservative ministry, who again indorsed the orders of the Marquis of Caxias. General Webb gave them five days to reverse their decision. They did so by recalling their previous dispatch, and allowed the *Wasp* to proceed up the river. She arrived just in time to save Mr. Washburn and his family, who assert, that if the arrival of the *Wasp* had been delayed ten days longer, they would never would have been heard of again. In the mean time Mr. Seward virtually condemned the conduct of General Webb, and said his conduct would be held un-

der consideration. But when it resulted in permission for the *Wasp* to go to Asuncion, and the lives of Mr. Washburn and his family were thus saved by a diplomatic triumph on the part of our minister, his conduct was formally and cordially approved.

But the crowning success of General Webb's mission was an arrangement with the Emperor Napoleon, on the 10th of November, 1865, for his peaceable retirement from Mexico. We will permit the late Henry J. Raymond, of the *New York Times*, to tell the story.

From the *Times* of April 10, 1869.

"WHO NEGOTIATED THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE FRENCH FROM MEXICO.

"We have reason to believe that the withdrawal of the French from Mexico, affords no exception to the general rule; and that while seeming to have been the result of the diplomacy of the two governments, and especially of the threatening note from Mr. Seward already referred to, it was in reality accomplished in a very different manner and by an entirely different agency. Indeed, it is scarcely conceivable, that so sagacious a ruler as the Emperor of France, should have allowed himself to be forced into a step which he must have known from the outset was a political necessity, and which he should have accepted as such, in anticipation of measures on our part which would expose him to reproach and misconstruction at home. Indeed, in view of the attacks which have been made upon him on this very point, it is a little singular that he has not long since set the real facts of the case before the people of France.

"We have read the original papers, correspondence, and memoranda relating to this subject, and may, at some future day, lay them before the public,—contenting ourselves for the present with stating that they show that the real arrangement by which the Emperor agreed to withdraw his troops from Mexico, was made by him with President Lincoln, through the personal agency of General J. Watson Webb, the former editor of the *Courier and*

*Enquirer*, who had become personally acquainted with Louis Napoleon when the latter came, as an exile, from France to this country from Brazil, in 1835; for whom he had cherished a warm personal friendship, and with whom he had maintained a constant correspondence. When General Webb was appointed Minister to Brazil in 1861, intending to go to Rio by way of Europe, he was requested, by Mr. Lincoln, to see the Emperor and learn his views in relation to our then blockade of the Southern coast. The interview took place at Fontainebleau on the 29th of July; and General Webb's report to President Lincoln of that interview, and Mr. Dayton's representation of its influence upon his position was so satisfactory, that a great weight of anxiety was removed from the mind of the Executive.

"General Webb next visited Lord John Russell, to whom he was personally well known; and by invitation, spent most of a day with him at Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park. Of that interview he also made an official report; which, together with the message intrusted to him from the Emperor Napoleon to President Lincoln, removed all anxiety in regard to any interference with our blockade.

"General Webb then repaired to Rio de Janeiro and took charge of his mission; and in February, 1863, when he learned that the Emperor of France had commenced his Mexican intervention, he not only urged upon our government the enforcement of the Monroe Doctrine, but he wrote to the Emperor, pointing out the grand mistake he had made in recognizing the *Priest Party* in Mexico, as one to be relied on or capable of giving him support in his hazardous proceeding. He showed how utterly impossible it was, that the United States should ever assent to his proceedings; and announced as absolutely certain, that the people, irrespective of the government, would insist upon the withdrawal of his forces from Mexico; while the people of France could not but disapprove of a proceeding calculated to produce a collision with the United States.

"This letter remained unanswered some two months; when the course of events, and more reliable information in regard to the

Priest Party in Mexico, satisfied the Emperor, that his old friend had not deceived him, but had related to him truths, which, most probably, he would not learn from any other source. Finally, on the 22d of May, 1863, the Emperor acknowledged the receipt of General Webb's letter, and with the utmost frankness explained how he was drawn into this Mexican affair, and declared his determination to withdraw the moment he could do so with credit, and without compromising the honor of France. He also gave notice, that while it was his intention to withdraw, he must *not* be *menaced*. Any attempt of the kind, would so complicate his relations with his own people, as necessarily to *prevent* his withdrawing.

"The letter, which we have read, is a very extraordinary production; exceedingly friendly, frank, and creditable to the Emperor's sagacity and good judgment. General Webb very properly considered the letter as designed rather for the President of the United States than for himself, and accordingly forwarded to Mr. Lincoln. The written pledge it contained that the Emperor would withdraw his troops from Mexico, whenever he could do so with honor, was accepted by Mr. Lincoln in the same spirit in which it was written; and hence the lull which took place in our negotiations with France, during the next two years. After Mr. Lincoln's death, a new and less friendly tone is apparent in our correspondence with France. Mr. Lincoln's prudence, and his reliance upon the good faith of the Emperor, no longer guided our councils; and in the autumn of 1865, the wisest among us apprehended a collision with our ancient ally. Such an event—a war with the most powerful nation in the world, in the then unsettled state of the country, and the derangement of our finances, was something too terrible to anticipate; and yet it appeared but too probable.

"General Webb arrived at Lisbon on his way home, at the close of October, 1865, and wrote from Lisbon to the Emperor, announcing his intention to sail in a few days for New York, from Liverpool, and inquiring what he could do in regard to the Mexican question. On arrival at Southampton, he received a telegram from



the Emperor, urging him to visit Paris. He went accordingly, and, on his arrival at the Hotel Bristol, on the evening of the 9th of November, was met by an invitation or command, to breakfast with the Emperor at St. Cloud on the following morning. Of course, he went accordingly, and, after breakfast, spent more than two hours with His Majesty. The result was an agreement between the parties, subject to the approval of the President, that the French troops should be withdrawn from Mexico in twelve, eighteen, and twenty-four months.

“It was stipulated by the Emperor, that our minister in France should know nothing of this arrangement; and to guard against its becoming public by the action of our Congress, even Mr. Seward was not to have knowledge of it officially. And it was further agreed that if President Johnson approved of what had been arranged, General Webb should write to the Emperor to that effect, and thus prevent the arrangement getting into the Foreign Office of either country—the emperor pledging himself to announce the fact in April, 1866, through the *Moniteur*.

“General Webb arrived here, after a stormy passage of seventeen days, on the 5th of December, 1865, seriously ill with gout. He was prohibited from putting pen to paper on the subject; and although the thermometer was but little above zero, he repaired to Washington the same night, and immediately made this report. On the evening of the 6th December, 1865, Mr. Seward called on General Webb and informed him that the President *approved* of his arrangement with the Emperor Napoleon, and authorized him to write to the Emperor in his (the President’s) name, and express his cordial approbation of the proposed settlement of the Mexican question.

“General Webb wrote accordingly; and in *April*, 1865, the *Moniteur* contained the promised announcement of the Emperor’s intention to withdraw his troops from Mexico.

“Thus it will appear, that the Department of State had nothing whatever to do with the settlement of the Mexican question; and

it is most unjust to Napoleon III. to permit, uncontradicted, the universally received idea, that the French troops were withdrawn from Mexico in consequence of the *threatening* letter from Mr. Seward to the Marquis de Montholon, which bears date December 6, and was sent to him on the 11th. As a matter of course, both in this country and in Europe, the public could attribute the withdrawal from Mexico, to no other cause; but as it now appears that the letter referred to, was written *after* Mr. Seward had been officially notified of the settlement of this all-important question, and *after* he had directed General Webb, in the name of the President, to communicate to the Emperor the President's approval and acceptance of such settlement thus agreed upon, public sentiment both here and in France, will do justice to the Emperor and vindicate him from the reproach of having been *driven* out of Mexico by any thing that could be construed into a threat.

"It seems clear, from the documentary evidence which has been submitted to us in this matter, that as early as the 22d of May, 1863, the Emperor in his letter to General Webb, declared that he desired very much to withdraw from the Mexican business, and expressed his determination to retire his troops just as soon as he could do so with honor, and without wounding the sensitive pride of the French people. From that determination he never swerved; and Mr. Lincoln died in the full faith that he would fulfill this understanding, and that the Mexican question would thus be settled. After Mr. Lincoln's death, the subject became one of political agitation; and we seemed to be on the eve of a rupture with France, when the personal relations which General Webb had maintained with the Emperor, enabled him in an unofficial and friendly interview, to effect an understanding which would have been found much more difficult, if not absolutely impossible of attainment, through the ordinary channels of diplomatic intercourse.

"General Webb, from whom we have these facts, and who has permitted us to read the correspondence, examine the original telegrams, etc., and to make public this statement from them, may be

censured by some persons for having so long suppressed these important developments, due alike to our country and Napoleon. But it must be borne in mind that General Webb was an officer of the State Department, and could not, without a great breach of official etiquette and a violation of duty, make any revelations on the subject until Mr. Johnson and Mr. Seward had retired from office. He has, however, never failed to vindicate the Emperor of France from the reproach that he was induced to retire from Mexico by reason of threats fulminated more than two years *after* he had voluntarily given a written pledge to retire, and *after* he had specifically named the *manner* as well as the *time* of his retiring. 'The Emperor,' says General Webb, 'not only carried out the arrangement made by him in its true *spirit*, but when it became apparent that he must retire all his forces at once to insure their safety, and not by detachments, instead of fixing upon *eighteen* months, as the average of the time agreed upon, he voluntarily named sixteen months (March, 1867), as the period for withdrawing.'

"General Webb maintains that no official personage ever kept faith better than has Louis Napoleon in this Mexican affair; and he asserts, what the public will be gratified to learn, that the Emperor was among the first who perceived his error in going to Mexico, and at once voluntarily pledged himself to withdraw as soon as he could do so without compromising the honor of the French.

"It is scarcely necessary to add, that General Webb, who is now on his return to Brazil, has placed these facts at our disposal, to be used immediately after the fourth of March as an act of justice to one who has conducted himself throughout this affair with a frankness and good faith which are conspicuous in the whole transaction."

Mr. Raymond discovered that he had, most unexpectedly, called upon himself the denunciations of Mr. Seward's friends. They pronounced the entire statement *false*; and Mr. Seward's organ in

Auburn, gave notice that Mr. Seward was preparing a reply. No reply, however, appeared; and Mr. Raymond was called upon to produce Napoleon's letter of March 22, 1863, which they said was a myth. General Webb was then in Brazil closing up his triumphant mission; and Mr. Raymond patiently awaited his return, in order to vindicate himself from the abuse heaped upon him for having, as one editor said, "robbed his friend Seward of all claims to any success in the management of the State Department. We all know that he perfected no negotiation with England, save the surrender of Mason and Slidell; and that he left the *Alabama* question all unsettled. If, then, he is to be deprived of the credit of having settled the Mexican question with the Emperor Napoleon, and if, as the editor of the *Times* declares, he did not even *know* of the negotiation until after it was closed, and was in terms excluded from any such knowledge, his position is far from being an enviable one, in view of his threatening letter to the French Minister, written, as is now charged, *after* the affair had been arranged."

Mr. Raymond anxiously awaited the return of General Webb from Brazil. He did return; but only to find his friend Raymond in his coffin, and in time to act as one of his pall-bearers.

It having been denied that there ever was any such letter from the Emperor as that described by Mr. Raymond, and which he had read after it had been five years in the archives of the State Department, we now, in justice to the memory of Mr. Raymond, give a literal translation of that important paper.

#### NAPOLÉON III. TO GENERAL WEBB.

[*Translation.*]

PARIS, March 22, 1863.

MY DEAR GENERAL:—

I received your letter of March 8, and the interesting note inclosed therein, which, after perusal, I burned immediately,\* according to your wishes, and without mentioning the subject to any one. The questions you treat of, are very important and very delicate;

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\* This alludes to a copy of an official dispatch from General Webb to Mr. Seward, urging the application of the Monroe Doctrine to Napoleon, and the giving notice that his remaining in Mexico would be considered by the United States an act of war.



still I will answer them in all frankness. You are greatly mistaken if you believe that any motive of ambition or cupidity has led me into Mexico. Engaged in this enterprise by Spain, and led by the doings of Juarez, I reluctantly sent, first, two thousand men; afterward, the national honor being compromised, my troops were increased to eight thousand: finally the repulse at Puebla having engaged our military honor, I sent over thirty-five thousand men. It is, therefore, much against my inclination, that I am compelled to wage war at such a distance from France; and it is in no way for the purpose of taking possession of the mines of the Sonora that my soldiers are fighting. But now that the French flag is in Mexico, it is difficult for me to foretell what may happen; at all events, my intention is to withdraw as soon as honor and the interests now engaged, allow me. It would be wrong in the United States, therefore, to make my being there a subject of dispute; for a *menace* would then change all my plans, which now are *disinterested*. As regards the war which desolates your country, I profoundly regret it; for I do not see how and when it will end, and it is not the interest of France that the United States should be weakened by a struggle without any good results possible. In a country as sensible as America, it is not by arms that domestic quarrels should be settled, but by votes, meetings, and assemblies. In Europe, too, we have many causes of disturbance—many grave questions to solve. For this purpose, France needs the alliance of England; hence my efforts have always been directed toward maintaining the ties of good understanding, often in spite of the ill-will of the English government.

I have now sincerely explained my position to you; and in that way, you see, I reciprocate the perfect frankness of your communication. Be always persuaded, my dear General, of my interest in your country, as well as my friendship and the high esteem which I profess for your character. With these sentiments, I remain,

Yours very affectionately,

NAPOLEON.

We have thus grouped together some of the more prominent features of the distinguished public career of James Watson Webb. The restrictions imposed upon us in regard to space have necessitated a more concise and sententious style of composition than accords either with the dignity of the subject, or our own ideas of good taste. The memoir would have been worthier and more satisfactory, if we could have had more room. But the conditions of publishers are inflexible, and we must bring our biography to a close by summarizing the principal characteristics, mental and moral, of General Webb. The writer has known him long and well; has watched his course as the leading Whig editor of the country, for more than a quarter of a century; and subsequently, while representing the government at the most important court on the American continent, at a critical period in our national history. How he bore himself under circumstances of great difficulty and delicacy,

the foregoing imperfect sketch will inform the reader. He was the same outspoken, fearless, and determined man when officially guarding the honor and interests of the nation, as he has ever shown himself in vindicating his personal rights. Of an ardent temperament, in early life somewhat inclined to impetuosity, he is a liberal-minded and eminently just man. Sanguine and confident, his opinions were apt to settle into convictions; but his instincts were all on the side of liberality and fair dealing; and he had that innate sense of rectitude, that excluded the possibility of a dishonorable or unmanly act. He was always prompt to acknowledge and repair any wrong committed under a hasty impulse. He has a degree of sensibility and tenderness, almost feminine; and no appeal to his feelings of kindness and generosity is ever made in vain. The brilliant successes achieved during his mission to Brazil were due in large measure to his idiosyncracies of character. Bold and unhesitating, even to the verge of rashness, no apprehension of consequences, of any description, prevented him from denouncing iniquity and indiréction wherever discovered; and when he penetrated the insidious designs of the rebels, promoted as they were by the malign influence that dominated the court of Brazil, he threw himself into the breach, and baffled and routed the conspirators with a dash and audacity that stunned and bewildered the government at Washington. Mr. Seward, naturally a timid and undecided man, frequently hesitated about approving the positive and determined conduct of General Webb; but was finally compelled by public opinion to indorse his conduct in every exigency that was sprung upon him.

For a quarter of a century at least, General Webb was the best abused man in the country. Early in his editorial career he abandoned the Democratic party for the reason that, in his judgment, the policy of the administration was prejudicial to the best interests of the country. For this he was abused and calumniated for a long series of years, with a persistent malignity and vindictiveness such as few men have ever been subjected to. But General Webb is a

singularly self-contained and independent man, and he bore the reiterated assaults of his slanderers with a degree of composure and indifference, quite surprising to those of his friends who were aware of his hasty temper and general habit of resenting insults and chas-tising impertinence. But conscious of his integrity and the uprightness of his motives, he submitted in comparative silence, confident that he could live down the calumnies, and that history would ultimately do him justice. The result has justified his expectations. Those who originated and repeated the aspersions upon his reputation have passed away; and no man lives who would utter one word of reproach or disparagement of his character. General Webb is a man of uncommon tenacity of purpose, and infinite perseverance. He has rarely failed in any undertaking. He wastes no time in unavailing regrets. In his earlier days he had bitter enemies and warm friends; the former he never pursued vindictively or ungenerously—the latter he never forsook or neglected. He never permitted his political differences to interfere with his personal relations. Calhoun and Cass, although opposed to him in politics for many years, remained his fast friends until they died.

Intellectually he is no common man. His perceptions are rapid and acute, and his mind has a grasp and logical power that placed him in a position of great advantage as a newspaper editor. He is a fine judge of men, and has rarely been mistaken in the selection of his friends and confidants. He gathered around him in the editorial rooms of the *Courier and Enquirer* men of extensive acquirements and brilliant powers, but they were all subordinate to his will. He was supreme in the conduct of his paper, and always held himself responsible for what appeared in its columns. He wrote with great facility, and always with logical force and precision. He understood politics generally, and personal politics specially, as well as any man in the country; and there was a species of magnetism about him, that gave him the power to impress with uncommon force those with whom he came in contact. In the early stage of his editorial life, he had an inclination for controversial

discussion, and excelled in gladiatorial contests; but he was always courteous and high-toned, and never noticed ribald assaults under any circumstances. Advancing years mellowed him down, without abating anything of his spirit or mental activity; and he is passing the evening of his life, surrounded by troops of admiring friends, in the tranquil enjoyment to which a benevolent and kind-hearted man is entitled.

General Webb has uncommon personal advantages. Tall, of a commanding figure and presence, time has passed lightly over him, neither dimming the brightness of his eye, nor impairing to any perceptible extent, the vigor or activity of his faculties.



## HON. JAMES I. ROOSEVELT.

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THE distinguished subject of this sketch was born in New York City, and is of Dutch descent. His ancestors originally immigrated to this country from Protestant Holland, in about the year 1651, and were, therefore, among the first settlers of the colony of New York, where the family have since continued to reside. This now eminent jurist exhibited even in early life the signs of future promise, and, although he was then but a mere youth, entered the Freshman Class of Columbia College during the year of our last war with Great Britain, in 1812, numbering among his classmates, as well as later associates, the familiar names of John L. Mason, Professor Anthon, and John C. Cheeseman.

Such was his application to study, that the second year of his college life he bore the examination, and was promoted to the Junior Class, graduating in 1815, at about the close of the war, after a pupilage of about three years. He soon after entered the office of Hon. Peter A. Jay, with whom he studied law, and was called to the Bar in 1818, when he immediately entered upon the arduous duties of his profession as a law partner of Mr. Jay, commanding an extensive and lucrative practice.

The same year, Mr. Jay being elected to the Legislature, the business of the new firm necessarily devolved upon the junior partner, and again by Mr. Jay's elevation to the office of Recorder, which was then a court of civil jurisdiction, the sphere of his labors became greatly extended, and so continued until finally succeeding to the major part of the business of his late partner, who gradually retired from practice, Mr. Roosevelt found himself completely im-

mersed in his profession, which he pursued with great zeal and success down to about 1830.

During these fifteen years of professional toil Judge Roosevelt had applied himself more particularly to that branch of the law which related to questions in Chancery practice, and it is probable that he was the most thorough Chancery lawyer of that day—he seems in fact, if we may be allowed the expression, to have had a *weakness* for that class of cases, and he has ever since been looked up to by the Bar and his brother members of court as a “guiding star” on all subjects involving rights in equity.

During the campaign of 1828, in which General Jackson received his second nomination for the Presidency, Judge Roosevelt took an active part in politics, and, though a warm personal friend of Clinton, he was an ardent admirer of Jackson, and supported his nomination and election at that and the subsequent occasion on which the general was elevated to the Presidential chair.

The subject of our sketch had early identified himself with the Democratic party, and for several years was the popular treasurer of the Tammany General Committee, holding many a convivial meeting of his fellow-members, whom he regaled with oysters and champagne (as tradition runs) in his own mansion, then located in Park Place.

In 1828, though still a bachelor, he was called upon to assume the responsible duties of a “City Father,” and was re-elected a member of the Common Council in 1830.

It was something of an honor in those days to hold office under our city government. None but gentlemen of sterling integrity were then the recipients of public favor. Parties were not drawn together by the “cohesive power of public plunder,” nor were the primary elections or the polls controlled by “professors” of the “manly art of self-defense.” It was an age when politicians possessed virtues, and struggled for principles, not men—when politics was regarded as that part of ethics which embraces the discipline of a nation for the preservation of its peace and the advancement

of its prosperity. To this political school, not much improved by the "latest fashions," Judge Roosevelt belonged and gave frequent expression to his sentiments by voluntary contributions to the editorial columns of the leading newspapers of that day.

In 1830, being much exhausted by his long and close application to business, he temporarily withdrew from the field of professional honor, where he had already won for himself a distinguished position, and started upon a European tour, visiting the principal places of note both in England and upon the Continent, where the fates destined him to become a candidate for new laurels not unlikely to be sought after by *bachelor* members "of the best regulated families."

He embarked from New York in a sailing vessel—sea steamers were then unknown—and after first visiting England he went to Paris, being there during the commotions which followed the revolution of July, 1830, and was present in the Chamber of Peers during the trial of Prince Polignac and the other ministers of the deposed monarch, Charles X. The Palais de Justice, where the ordinary courts are held, was also frequently visited by him to observe the French modes of procedure in the trial of ordinary cases. Madame Malibran's divorce was at this time pending, and one of the questions to which it gave rise related to the laws of New York, the marriage having taken place in this city, and on which account it became necessary to consult a New York lawyer. General Lafayette, the friend of Madame Malibran, accordingly sent for Mr. Roosevelt, with whom he was on terms of social intimacy, for his opinion of that branch of the case. The result was a liberation of this noted lady from the uncongenial bonds which had been put upon her, not by her own choice, but by her father's will.

After spending several months in Paris, Mr. Roosevelt visited Rome, Naples, and Madrid. In the neighborhood of the latter city, he became engaged to his wife, the daughter of Governor Van Ness, then American minister in Spain, and the sister of Mrs., now Lady

some reluctance he consented, but resigned immediately at the close of Mr. Buchanan's administration, having since led the quiet life of a private gentleman, and attained the age of threescore and nearly fifteen more.

In his personal character, Judge Roosevelt is without reproach. He possesses purity as stainless as when he entered upon public life, and integrity as unimpeachable as when first elected to office.







*Am B. Bennett*

## WILLIAM B. BEMENT.

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THE world witnesses many failures, but ability, persistence, and fidelity united, seldom fail. Circumstances may seem adverse. Disaster may thwart. Difficulties may oppose. Disappointment may postpone. But real ability, bravely persevering and aiming always to do its best, is sure at length to conquer; and obstacle, discouragement, unfavorable circumstance of whatever sort, will, in the end, be seen to have been only the stone required to whet the steel to a sharper edge, or the very condition needed to test aptitude, to develop resource, or, somehow, to give skill, confidence, and power.

Illustrated in the case of nearly every man who attains to marked position in any calling, this general fact is signally illustrated in the career of the gentleman who is the subject of this sketch.

William Barnes Bement is the son of Samuel Bement, a native of Connecticut, who went in early life to Tunbridge, Vermont, as a maker of wrought nails—cut nails being then unknown—but who removed in 1816 to Bradford, Merrimac County, New Hampshire, to establish himself as a farmer and blacksmith. Here, on the 10th of May, 1817, William was born. Educational privileges in the country were then limited even more than now, and, sharing in this common lot, young Bement attended school only during the winter. For the rest of the year, as soon as he was old enough, he assisted his father and an elder brother at the forge, and on the farm. But the bent of the boy's mind very soon showed itself. His play-hours were given to all sorts of rudimentary machine-making. Saw-mills, windmills, trip-hammers and the like were more to him than kites, tops, or marbles; more to him, unfortunately, than books, for in

his devotion to them he was often a truant when he should have been at school. The brooks and small streams of the neighborhood were seldom without some signs of his amateur engineering, as they were dammed to furnish the motive power for the rude products of his active brain. These were the blossomings of his genius, while the disadvantages under which he labored in the lack of tools only served to exercise and stimulate his inventive faculty, and thus proved valuable teachers, schooling him for his subsequent career. The experience thus acquired was the germ of much of the success of his later years.

He remained with his father till the autumn of 1834. Then, with nothing but his head, his hands, and a single suit of clothes, to which should be added a vigorous frame, and the thorough practical education he had received in his father's shop, on the farm, and at his boyish mechanical diversions, he bade farewell to the homestead, and immediately apprenticed himself for three years at his chosen trade, with Messrs. Moore & Colby, manufacturers of cotton and woolen machinery, Peterboro', New Hampshire. Here his progress was so rapid that, within two years, while not yet twenty years of age, he was placed at the head of the shop, and, on the withdrawal of one of the partners, became, at the solicitation of the other, a member of the firm. He occupied this position something more than three years, having his thoughts all the while much engrossed with machine-tools, and giving occasional signs of what he was to become, in the construction of several tools and fixtures which he devised for the establishment. But the period, 1837-39, was one of much depression in manufacturing. The business of the firm was small at best, and, yearning for a broader field, he left.

His next engagement was in Manchester, New Hampshire, to which place he removed in 1840, having meanwhile married Miss Emily Russell, of Royalton, Vermont, an estimable lady, who has lived to share his well-earned prosperity. Manchester was then in its infancy, and the Amoskeag Machine-Shop, in which he was em-



ployed, W. A. Burke, Esq., superintendent, was not yet finished. He remained here two years, during which time the second cotton-mill of the young city was erected. The machinery was furnished by the Amoskeag shop, and he built a portion of it by contract. In 1842, visiting at the West, he was persuaded by friends to take charge of a shop for the manufacture of woolen machinery, in Mishawaka, Indiana. But, having gone to New Hampshire for his family, the night before his return the establishment was burned to the ground. The proprietors could not rebuild, and reaching Mishawaka with his little household, he found himself without a home, without employment, and with only ten dollars in the world. But he was equal to the emergency. Falling back on his familiarity with the use of tools, which he had acquired as a boy about his father's forge, he entered his brother's blacksmith-shop, and at once adjusted himself to the situation. It was not a situation that satisfied either his ambition or his taste. But it answered immediate needs, and enabled him, under God, to master the circumstances and to show himself superior to calamity—as the true man, life and health being spared, somehow, always does. Doing whatever he undertook as well as he could, his aptitude and skill immediately became manifest, especially as a gunsmith. His work in this line attained such high repute that he was overrun with calls for it, and it shortly became necessary to fit up a room specially for the business. Thereupon an engine-lathe was indispensable. But where was such a thing to be found? It was nowhere made in that region, nor could one be bought. He straightway solved the question by designing one. Making his own drawings and patterns, he soon had the castings, and the machine was put together in the shop of the St. Joseph's Iron Company, the use of which was granted as a return for permitting the company to use the patterns to get up a similar lathe for itself. There was no planing machine within a thousand miles. All the working parts of the lathe had to be finished by hand, by chipping and filing, aided only by a common lathe and a vise. But the engine-lathe was at length completed, demonstrating

the ability of the young gunsmith to overcome the greatest difficulties and to build machinery almost without tools. The result was an immediate proposition from the St. Joseph's Iron Co. that he should leave gunsmithing and take charge of their shop. To this he agreed, on condition that the establishment should be enlarged and stocked with the tools required. This was accordingly done; but when every thing was complete, and the enlarged shop was happily in operation, again the flames came, and the whole establishment was in ashes. But with characteristic readiness, and with a pluck which the flames could not consume, Mr. Bement had the plans for another shop prepared by the next day. With others, the day following, he went into the woods and helped cut the timber, and ere long a new shop was up and furnished, and he was once more in his element as its head. He remained here for about three years, constructing a variety of machine-tools, one of which was a gear-cutting engine—the first ever built at the West, or used beyond Cleveland. It was considered a marvel, attracting much attention and adding greatly to the growing reputation of its maker.

But at length he tired of the West, and longed for the stability of older communities—losses in real estate and the destitute condition of the country in respect to money materially helping to this end. Returning therefore to New England, he again engaged as a contractor for building cotton and woolen machinery under his old and esteemed friend, W. A. Burke, Esq., who had become superintendent of the Lowell Machine Shop. Here he first found some adequate scope for his genius. In the execution of his contracts, fixtures and machines of great utility were successively introduced. No sooner did a necessity become apparent than the tool or appliance demanded was planned to meet it. So ready in resource, so expert in execution, so entirely equal to every emergency did Mr. Bement thus prove himself, that Mr. Burke induced him to relinquish his contracts, and devote himself to drawing and designing tools and other machinery. This he did for three years, being also in charge of the pattern-shop. How serviceable his labors were to his em-

ployers, and how creditable to himself is attested in the steady growth of his reputation and the wide popularity of the work sent out by the establishment during the six years of his connection with it.

But such a man could not long remain in a subordinate position. Masters are not over-abundant in any profession ; and he soon commanded the attention his ability deserved. As the result, E. D. Marshall, Esq., proprietor of a shop of moderate capacity, near Twentieth Street and Callowhill, Philadelphia, sought an interview with him, desiring to secure him as a partner. The opportunity thus offered to make his skill and experience more directly available for his own benefit, and to exercise his inventive genius untrammelled by the views or prejudices of others, was accepted ; and on the 3d of September, 1851, much against the wishes of his employer as well as against the advice and protestations of his friends, he left Lowell and removed to Philadelphia. A few hundred dollars constituted his entire capital, financially ; but he took with him a range of qualifications and a standing in his business which have proved to himself and his associates of far more worth than any amount of mere money, without these, could have been. But he stepped into no immediate success. Severe struggles followed—struggles which, however pleasant it may be to think of the victory reached through them, were any thing but agreeable at the time. A new business was to be built up, against many prejudices, against the competition of a well-established and prosperous shop, and amidst financial difficulties of no small magnitude. But labor conquers : and by dint of industry, perseverance, and a high standard of workmanship, a most honorable though dearly bought success was achieved. As has been seen, Mr. Bement has always made it one of his principles of action as a workman, to do whatever he undertook as well as it could be done. This principle he carried into his attempt to build up a business of his own, determined that, without regard to profits, only work of the very highest quality should be sent from his shop, and that his establishment should not only be

kept up to every existing demand of the mechanical community, but constantly ahead. In this, he has been cordially seconded by his associates, of whom George C. Thomas and James Dougherty, Esqs., are worthy of particular mention. The latter, especially, has had no superior in the foundery business, and by his eminent skill and carefulness in his department has contributed quite as much to the reputation and success of the establishment as has Mr. Bement in his peculiar sphere. The result is that the "Industrial Works," of Philadelphia, stand to-day second to no similar Works in the world—Whitworth's in Manchester, England, possibly alone excepted. The establishment is the largest, in its line, in the country. Its resources enable it to meet demands in any branch of machinery; but its specialty is the production of tools and outfits for railroad and locomotive shops. For such shops it supplies every appointment, from the most massive to the most minute. It is represented by its work in every part of the globe; and the writer of this sketch may be permitted, without suggestion from Mr. Bement, to record here the testimony of the proprietor of one of the most extensive Iron Works in New York City, to the effect that the Industrial Works unquestionably send out the best things in its line in the world.

Mr. Bement's designs are distinguished for gracefulness of style and symmetry of proportions, subordinated always to strength, durability, and practical efficiency. He has taken out but few patents, and these but slightly indicate the range, or quality, of his inventive power. Numerous valuable improvements of his have been given to the public and eagerly adopted by his competitors. It would be easy to catalogue his inventions and improvements were it desirable; but, creditable and important as they are, Mr. Bement prides himself on these far less than on the character of his work, and on what has been its influence in elevating the standards, and cultivating a higher order of taste, in the profession of which he is so enthusiastic a member. Up to about 1848, the construction of machine-tools had never been made a specialty in



this country. Each machine-shop made its own according to its needs. Of course, clumsiness, great crudeness of design, and an almost entire lack of taste and finish were thus inevitable. Many of the most important operations of a shop, moreover, might almost be said to have had no appliances suited to their demands, and others were accomplished only by awkward and extemporized expedients. Now all this is changed. Tool-building has become a distinct department in the machinist's profession—a science of itself. Tools are furnished for every exigency, combining style, strength, and accuracy, with directness of movement and economy of power, while we have come to expect that each tool shall not only include every known improvement, but be a complete specimen of skill in design, of taste in finish, and of effectiveness in work. The whole tone of the "craft" has been artistically refined and elevated, and a well-conducted machine-shop is now, in respect to neatness, order, and completeness of outfit, a far different thing from what it was twenty years ago. How much has thus been gained in the interest of a progressive and scientific production and use of machinery, it would be difficult fully to describe. Nor would it be proper to attribute the change to any one man. But, allowing all that can be duly claimed for others, it is only just to say that, among those who have made for themselves an honorable record in this regard, the name of no man stands higher than that of William B. Bement. And just now in the maturity of his years, with the prestige of the position he has attained, we may be sure that if life and health are continued to him, his fellow-craftsmen and the world will hear still more from him.

At different times since removing to Philadelphia, Mr. Bement has had four partners. On the 1st of October, 1870, he purchased the interest of the last of these, James Dougherty, Esq., and associated with himself his eldest son, Mr. Clarence S. Bement. The business is now conducted by William B. Bement & Son. May its future be every way as honorable and prosperous as has been its past.



## CHARLES MORGAN.

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HERE is no New England name whose origin in this country has been more certainly established, whose branching lines have been followed out through all their ramifications with more absolute success than that of Morgan. For this, those bearing the name are indebted to one of their own number, Mr. Nathaniel H. Morgan, of Hartford, Connecticut, a gentleman of literary tastes—a true lover of musty records, a genuine Old Mortality among the moss-grown tombstones and forgotten graves of New England, where “the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.”

In these United States, whose antiquity is but the yesterday of older nations, there are not many who can trace back their ancestry even through the brief history which the country possesses; but though it be common to speak slightly of the desire to trace one's pedigree, few Americans, we apprehend, are anxious to hide their descent from some one or other of the “Pilgrim Fathers” when it is clearly established. For this natural feeling, we confess we have more respect than reproof.

The great ancestor of the subject of this sketch, and of others bearing the name who have made their mark upon their age, was James Morgan, a Welshman, born in 1607, who left the port of Bristol, in England, in March, 1636, and arrived in Boston in the April following; subsequently he settled in Roxburgh, and afterward removed to Pequot, in Connecticut, now New London, where he lived and begat sons and daughters, and where he died, leaving behind him a good estate, and also a good name, which is better than riches.

Charles Morgan is a lineal descendant of the seventh generation of this James Morgan, and was born in the town of Clinton, Connecticut, in 1795. His life illustrates what may be accomplished by industry and steady perseverance, by energy and native courage, without the aid of inherited wealth, or friends to start one in life, or an education beyond the rudimental one common in New England schools of two generations ago.

At the age of fourteen he left his native village to seek his fortune, and arrived in the city of New York, light of heart and lighter of purse; engaged himself to a retail grocer, and patiently went through the early and late hours, and the drudgery incidental to such a life, till in a few years he had thoroughly learned the business, and saved enough to set himself up in the same line in a small way. Success followed, as it generally does, good management and assiduity in business. He enlarged his views, began to import a little fruit from the West Indies, then purchased an interest in a brig sailing to that region, then the whole of her, then other vessels, until he became sole owner of a line of brigs and schooners trading between New York and the West Indies. To such a mind this success was but suggestive of new enterprise; he turned his attention from sailing vessels to steam, beginning by purchasing an interest in the steamer *David Brown*, and sending her to Charleston, S. C., the first steamer that ever entered that harbor from the city of New York. She was the pioneer of others, and for a number of years he maintained a line of steamers between the two cities. Success here again prompted to new enterprise, and he now commenced the running of steamers in the Gulf of Mexico, a department of business with which his name is most prominently connected in the steamship annals of the country.

In 1835, while Texas was struggling with Mexico for her independence, before she had won it on the field of San Jacinto, Mr. Morgan, believing in the certain triumph of the Anglo-Saxon race over the mixed races of Mexico, determined to be the first in a trade which he foresaw must, in the event of the success of the



Texan arms, one day rise to large proportions. He sent his steamer *Columbia* from New Orleans to Galveston, Texas. Galveston, now a beautiful and prosperous city, the Queen of the Gulf, then consisted of but a single house; there was no wharf at which to land goods, and those carried thither by Mr. Morgan's steamers then, and for some time afterward, were taken to the shore in scows, and thence found their way into the interior upon the backs of mules and other primitive conveyances. What a change has come over that region in the brief period between then and now! The whistle of the steam-engine has taken the place of the howl of the wolf, and the red children of the forest and prairie have here, as everywhere else, disappeared before the aggressive and remorseless tread of the white man. Texas conquered her independence—emigrants flocked from the north into the new territory—the city of Galveston increased with unexampled rapidity—other cities sprung up on the coast—steamer followed steamer as the trade expanded, and Mr. Morgan reaped the reward of his far-seeing adventure.

Discouragements, however, followed. The harbors of Texas were shallow and exposed, the bars changing and treacherous: the steamers, then, from the lack of experience, were not so suitable to the peculiar navigation as now, and their commanders less acquainted with its intricacies. Not a few were cast away on that inhospitable, because unfamiliar, coast. In rapid succession Mr. Morgan lost by shipwreck the steamers *Perseverance*, *Globe*, *Yacht*, *Meteor*, *Palmetto*, *Galveston*, *Portland*, *New York*, and *Jerry Smith*, on none of which was there any insurance. Adverse fortune, however, did not shake Mr. Morgan's confidence in the final result. He built other and better ships in the place of those lost, as well as additional ones, as the business grew, improving each over its forerunner, as experience dictated, and adding to their capacity, speed, and adaptation to the peculiarities of the navigation. The result has been, that for the last twenty years not an accident worth naming has happened to the line, and now the Morgan lines

of Texas steamers, trading between New Orleans and Brashear, Galveston, Indianola, Lavacca, Rockport, Sabine, and Brazos Santiago, are as well known for regularity and safety to the inhabitants of the region bordering on the Gulf, and to all having business relations there, as the Cunard line to Liverpool is to the citizens of New York.

Mr. Morgan also owns the line of steamers running on Lake Pontchartrain, between the cities of Mobile and New Orleans, and is at present the sole owner of nineteen steamships, all iron sea-going vessels of a superior class, besides several ferry-boats, and other smaller craft. First and last, since he began, he has built one hundred and ten vessels—sail and steam—and is now the largest shipowner in the United States.

Several years ago he purchased the railroad connecting New Orleans (at Algiers, opposite that city) with Brashear, eighty miles in length, which he runs in connection with his steamship lines in the Texas trade. This road he owns and runs himself. Its value is not represented by shares, and it is managed without the aid of a president and board of directors. There is, therefore, at least one railroad in the land whose fortunes are independent of the smiles and frowns of Wall Street, and which has no stock to corner or to buy or sell in any way, short or long.

In business matters, Mr. Morgan has much faith in the one-man power. He has no partners to consult, nor boards of directors to vote on his plans, or the appointment of subordinates in the management of his large business. But as he knows well that his own eyes can not be everywhere, he selects his managers with especial care; makes them sensible, by liberal compensation and respectful treatment, that their efforts in his service are appreciated; and then trusts much to their management. He knows the importance of the "right man in the right place," and under this systematic management he carries on his vast and active business, in his green old age, with an ease and facility, and a freedom from annoying care, unknown to most business men in the prime of life, with less

than a title of the business he conducts. Much of his success is also due to his personal qualities. Easily accessible to the poor as to the rich—seemingly always at leisure—of equable disposition and courteous demeanor—despising pretension, but quick to discern real merit—he has gathered into his service a class of men on whom he can rely, and is thus enabled to maintain his extensive enterprises, and enjoy also something of the *otium cum dignitate* due to his advancing years.

At one time in connection with others, he carried on, at the Morgan Iron Works,—a large property on the East River and Ninth and Tenth streets in the city of New York,—the business of engine building. Here the engines and boilers of many of the largest steamers of the navy, and of the mercantile marine have been built. At a later period, he became the sole owner of this property, which still bears his name, though it has, years ago, passed into other hands.

During his long and busy life, since he left his native village, now over sixty years ago, neither the cares of business nor the smiles of Fortune have blotted out the memory of his boyish days. He always finds time for at least an annual visit to Clinton. He has a warm corner in his heart for the spot where he was born. The friends of his childhood, now few and far between, are still his friends, as are the children of such of them as have passed away. As is so commonly the case with old men, the home feeling grows stronger as the shadows lengthen in the evening of life.

“As the hare, when hounds and horns pursue,  
Pants to the place from whence at first she flew.”

Nor is his regard for his native place a mere feeling of sentimentality. Recently he has purchased a plot of ground in the village, put it into the hands of trustees, at whose disposal he has also placed, for the erection of a school-house thereon, a large sum of money, more than ample to rear a building of abundant dimensions and ornamental design, surpassing the ambition of the good people of Clinton.









Sincerely yours  
Philip Phillips

## PHILIP PHILLIPS.

AUTHOR, PUBLISHER, AND CHRISTIAN VOCALIST.



THE individual is truly an exception, both in Europe and America, who has not listened to the wonderful soul-singing of Philip Phillips, of New York, known by the title of the Singing Pilgrim, or has not known of him through the millions of his publications, or read of him in the columns of the journals of both countries.

In the fourteen years in which he has publicly appeared as a sacred musician, combining the rare qualities of the popular composer and popular singer in one and the same person, he has sung the Gospel into the hearts of many thousands of weeping listeners with signal power and pathos, and in his particular field of Christian labor is universally admitted to be without a compeer on either continent. God gives us all peculiar talent for his service, but on none that we have ever heard has he bestowed that of which Mr. Phillips is possessed,—of sacred song, full of winning exhortation, warning, and comfort, *the* faculty of unexcelled musical composition for the Church, the Sabbath-School, and the Household, combined with such earnest and unwearied consecration of these gifts to the advancement of his kingdom.

Philip Phillips was born in Chautauqua County, New York, August 13, 1834. At the age of thirteen years he gave his heart to Jesus and has never departed from the faith. When but eight years old his beloved and pious mother was removed by death, which loss has given a coloring of sadness to his whole life. His father was a respected and industrious artisan, a man of large family and of but moderate means, and as a necessary consequence of the latter, young Philip knew what it was to struggle with hardships. After the death of his mother, at his own request he was

apprenticed to a farmer until he should attain the age of twenty-one years. Every spare moment from his labor was improved by him for the study of music, and in his daily toil his heart was full of song. Thus, unaided and without teachers, he mastered the fundamental rudiments of the science, afterward completing his musical education with the celebrated Dr. Lowell Mason and other eminent teachers in charge of the Normal Musical Institute. Two years before the death of his employer, which released him from his indentures, he was permitted to devote his whole time to the teaching and study of music, returning his pecuniary earnings to that gentleman, which of themselves were sufficient to fill Philip's place upon the farm threefold. At the age of seventeen he first entered upon the public service of sacred song, to which department of musical literature he had so long and so devotedly applied himself, and received over sixty dollars as the profits of his first concert. The emotional hymns of Charles Wesley were his favorites, and in them he seemed to find all that he needed to give expression to the joy and rapture of the budding gift of future song-worship germinating in his soul.

From holding musical conventions, singing before large Christian gatherings, Sabbath-school assemblies, etc., his attainments soon came to be widely known to the Methodist Church, of which body he is a member, and since that time to the present he has been constantly engaged in giving his "Evenings of Sacred Song" by special invitation in nearly every State in the Union. Of warm sympathies, of ardent enthusiastic piety, he has all through these years more than divided his income with indigent churches of all denominations, freely giving his time, talents, and means for the advancement of the interests of Christianity. To every call for help he has responded with alacrity, gone about cheering the sick and wounded in the hospitals and ministering to poverty until the measure of his charities and benevolence will never be computed this side the grave.

Mr. Phillips is a man of rare bodily endurance and energy; other-



wise his indefatigable labors and arduous toil would have long since incapacitated him from the pursuit of his peculiar mission. In fact his whole make-up renders him untiring in the work to which he has devoted himself. There is not a grain of idleness in his composition; his every waking hour is full of employment for him. Phrenologists say of him that he will not only accomplish his own full allotment of labor, but at the same time lay out work enough to keep ten men in constant employment. Singing before an audience after a fatiguing railroad or stage ride of fifty or a hundred miles a day, the coming morning again finds him seated in the public conveyance, busily engaged with book and pencil in hand either in musical or literary composition, or in business calculations, which are only put aside on arrival at his place of destination.

He is small in stature, and fragile in build. He has dark hair, a sharp eye, his face is pale, and his whole countenance bears the expression that old painters liked to catch so well, when they put on canvas the face of one truly devoted to Christ and good works. His heart is so plainly in his work, his manner so open and free from cant, that both old and young recognize in him a warm-hearted Christian, rather than the musical artist, and are drawn toward him in sympathetic bonds of love, even before his lips utter a single note of his songs for Jesus. His face bears the impress of every phase of his song-worship, beaming forth love, hope, faith, joy, sorrow, affliction, trouble, and triumph, in swift accord to the subject of his song. His voice is a rich, clear, melodious baritone, and, unlike every other public singer, every word he utters, be its tone high or low, falls with full distinctness upon his auditory. Entrancing sweetness leads captive the listener to the sentiment of the song, and not the execution, as his voice grows soft and pathetic, and one wishes those ravishing, plaintive minor tones may never end, suddenly to be electrified with a volume of melody which would fill the largest cathedral to its inmost recess, astonishing in its distinctness and power, as Philip Phillips gives utterance to the grand diapason of his soul.

Seated at Smith's American organ, his favorite instrument, he sings and speaks for Christ for at least two hundred and fifty evenings of each year, with singular effectiveness. It matters not whether his audience be composed of the *élite* of New York in its Academy of Music, or the roughs and magdalens of the Mission Rooms on Water Street; the magnates of the nation in the halls of Congress, the aristocratic city, or the humble country church, he moves their souls alike with his beautiful Christian songs, even as the leaves of autumn are moved by the strong winds of heaven; and they follow him in their emotions as a triumphant leader, eyes filling with sympathetic and repentant tears, hearts thrilling and throbbing with holy joys, while in their souls are born new desires and resolutions for the attainment of that better land where the redeemed shall more sweetly sing the praises of the Lamb through the eternity of years.

Holding his residence for a few years in Ohio (mostly at Cincinnati), a State ever dear to him as the birthplace of his beloved and affectionate wife, in connection with his increasing labors in song, he commenced the publication, in book form, of his famous sacred musical compositions, continuing the same to this day with untiring zeal and perseverance. "Early Blossoms," his first production, sold to the extent of 20,000 copies; "Musical Leaves" soon followed, which has reached a sale of more than 1,000,000 copies, and is still in constant demand; "Home Songs" compiled by him for the Soldiers' Orphan Home of Iowa, all the proceeds of whose sale were contributed to the support of that institution, were sold to the extent of 6,000 copies; "The Singing Pilgrim," a perfect and charming reproduction in song and verse of the world-read dream of John Bunyan in old Bedford jail, has already attained a publication of more than 800,000 copies, and gave to its author the fitting appellation of "The Singing Pilgrim," by which he is so universally and distinctly known both by the Christian and the secular world.

In 1866 he was appointed musical editor of the Methodist Book

Concern of New York, and soon after issued under its auspices the new hymn and tune book, now in such extensive use by that important denomination, and having for its title, "An Offering of Praise." This volume making its way into every Methodist Episcopal Church in the country, soon procured for its editor a reputation as a composer and singer of divine songs, second only to the devout Wesleys, who were the original founders of this vast denomination of Christians. Removing to New York, that more perfectly he might fulfill his new obligations, his next production was the "New Standard Singer," 20,000 copies of which were ordered before the proof-sheets had been received. Previously, during his visit to Europe, he also compiled the "American Sacred Songster," for the London Sabbath-School Union, a work which, since his return home, has been universally adopted in the Sabbath-schools of the United Kingdom. "New Hallowed Songs," published January 1, 1870, combines in its pages an adaptation of songs of praise for the prayer and conference meeting which could only emanate from the musical talent and experience of its author, and which, in the few months since its appearance, has attained a popularity to the extent that its publisher is crowded with orders from all parts of the country. This was followed, July 1st, by "The Singing Annual for 1870," a work filled with entirely new and beautiful music for the Sabbath-school, and which has been edited by Mr. Phillips to meet the urgent call for new music from the millions of youth who are engaged in the study of the word and the worship of Jesus in song. It will be issued annually in the same form at the commencement of each year.

The first public advocate in America of Congregational Singing, Mr. Phillips, in his thousands of concerts, has devoted an especial half-hour to every audience before whom he has appeared, in behalf of this only true worship of God in song in our sanctuaries. Urging its adoption with earnest exhortation, he follows his remarks by leading his congregations in some familiar tune, in which, becoming impregnated with his spirit, they join with heart and soul to that extent of voice and volume that a stranger might right-

ly infer that this was their customary habit, rather than their first experience. Thus, in hundreds of churches, from the effects of his practical teachings, the choirs have become the instructors of their congregations in this delightful service, instead of those machines of artistic song, so destructive to the vitality of pure and earnest worship. For the furtherance of this glorious effort he has also added strength and power by the publication of the first journal ever devoted in this or other lands, to the exclusive interests of universal Congregational Song in all denominations of the Evangelical Church. "The Singing People," a twenty-four page magazine, printed on fine paper and with beautiful type, first made its quarterly appearance in August, 1868, and having for its editor the composer of the most beautiful sacred songs in our language, in its several issues has proved itself eminently adapted to its peculiar field of labor, and is obtaining a wide perusal from those who hail this reformation as an additional element for the promotion of religious health and growth.

In the summer of 1869 he visited Europe, with a view of resting a while from his arduous labors, but the fame of his God-given talent had crossed the Atlantic before him, and his journey on the Continent proved an ovation of welcome and a tour of song. In London, Liverpool, Belfast, Dublin, Edinburgh, Paris, and other cities, his voice fell like gentle dew, and cast its precious ointment upon the hearts of vast assemblies in the Old World's tabernacles and vast halls of worship. Here, as at home, natural and tender, simple and trusting as a child, the electric currents of his soul permeated his audience like a divine fire, and by unseen forces, with the outstretching circles of blessed song as instrument, singer and listener became leavened by the same inspiration, until they became as one in emotion. It is enough to know of the appreciation in which Mr. Phillips was held in the mother-country, that he was enthusiastically received by the entire press and people, and that the London *Recorder* said, upon his departure, "that he was followed home to America by the prayers and good wishes of tens of thousands of that land."



The known incidents of the blessed results of Mr. Phillips' singing, were they gathered together, would fill a volume of themselves. Christian hearts have been wakened to new life and service; prodigals cast aside their profligate ways and sought their father's mansion; the wavering made firm in faith; the drunkard turned from his cups; the wounds of the sorrowing healed; the self-murderer persuaded from destruction; the hesitating believer made valiant in God's vineyard; the couch of the dying Christian made happy, and that of the dying sinner made glorious; feet turned from paths of iniquity to walks of peace; and visions of the Celestial City been opened up to weary and sorrowing multitudes of earth.

Will it ever pass from history's page that just before the death of our lamented Lincoln, while Mr. Phillips was singing before the most distinguished men and women of the nation, in the Hall of Representatives in Washington, that he sent up this line to Mr. Seward: "Near the close let us have 'Your Mission' repeated by Mr. Phillips. Don't say I called for it. A. Lincoln?" Will those who were one evening gathered in the Effingham Theater, White-chapel, London, in connection with William Booth's mission, ever forget the song of Philip Phillips, "I will sing for Jesus," which caught the ear of a poor despairing man on his way to the London Docks to commit suicide, and reminding him of a mother's prayers and praise in his early days, brought him contrite to the feet of the Saviour?

Will that pool of wickedness in New York, called Water Street, ever forget the sermon of song by Mr. Phillips, given under the auspices of the Christian Mission in that locality in the dog-pit of Kit Burns, which, by the power of the Holy Spirit, caused full forty of the most degraded men and abandoned women of that pestiferous precinct to rise up in a body for the prayers of Christians, while repentant tears coursed fast and free from eyes unused to weep for sinfulness?

Among all the instrumentalities at work among the people, and

the agencies employed to redeem and bless, none are more fruitful in harvests of success than Mr. Phillips with his sanctifying songs. An earnest Christian worker, full of sweet, catholic spirit, his services and charities are freely given to all who love the Saviour, without regard to denominational names. May God long spare the life of his true servant, whose zeal for the upbuilding of his kingdom presents a spectacle at once as rare as it is noble and self-sacrificing.





Joseph M. Hooker



## JOSEPH HOOKER.

BY GENERAL JOHN WATTS DE PEYSTER.



THE great American civil war not only stands alone, in itself one of the most remarkable phases in the development of human progress, and a huge step towards the final recognition of human rights; but it is equally astonishing in its production of some of the most remarkable men who have ever moved upon the world's stage. Greater men have undoubtedly appeared from time to time thereon, but never in so short a space did individuals spring from obscurity into the first rank; from subaltern stations rise to the leadership of vast armies; from civil life, without an idea of military science, to generals' positions and important commands. One of these wonderful types of the adaptability and elasticity of the American character, is Joseph Hooker.

It is true that he had served with distinction in Mexico, as assistant adjutant-general of a diminutive division. Yet six years of mere routine and garrison duty, and eight years and three months of civil vocation, had elapsed between the resignation of his commission as a regular, and his appointment as a brigadier-general of volunteers,—time enough, if the stuff had not been in him, to unlearn all he had acquired, and undo all his early experience had done for him.

Joseph Hooker was born at Hadley, on the east bank of the Connecticut, in Hampshire County, Massachusetts, and with his ruddy cheeks, bright blue eye and light hair, lithe yet powerful frame, he was a fine type of the prominent and promising New England race. It is doubtful, taking him as a type, if there was a handsomer officer in the Union army; and just in the same degree that

he was a representative man as an individual, he was equally so as a soldier and as a general.

His lifting the Army of the Potomac from the slough of despond into which it had fallen after the first battle of Fredericksburg, and subsequent "mud-march," and his making it "the finest army on this planet;" his transmuting of our cavalry from an incoherent mass of horsemen into the thunderbolt which shattered its antagonist in the first trial of strength; his administrative innovations, which converted a jangling, unmanageable machine into a mighty, smoothly-working engine; his changing an army which resembled a sloth, into a porcupine or a sensitive-plant, which transmitted through every fibre the impression or influence of the slightest touch; his system of corps-badges and regulations "promulgated for the government of *all* the armies in the Republic;" his establishment of a bureau of secret information; all this, and more, constituted a metamorphosis, a new birth, almost without a parallel, certainly without a superior, in military records.

Gustavus, and Frederic the Great, and Napoleon, are said to have accomplished the same change or changes; but their portion of the glory was simply the finishing touches of a master, for whom all the rough work had already been accomplished. They, moreover, were despots whose will was law; and yet what they achieved was the culmination of the labor of years. Hooker, under republican institutions, shackled by red-tape, traversed by pedantry, and interfered with by politicians, achieved all this in less than three months. Had Hooker never done any thing else than this, it would have been a notable military achievement, such as would entitle him to high position among the military experts or creators of all ages.

Space will not admit of dwelling longer upon his first fight (Williamsburg) than to characterize it as one of the grandest efforts of a division-commander during the war. After this, his the Second Division of the Third Corps was known as "fighting Joe Hooker's Division," and so it continued to be styled until, to

the grief and indignation of its surviving members, it was consolidated with the Second Corps, although still retaining its distinctive badge; and after Spottsylvania, merged in the First, Kearny's original division. Nor will time permit to do justice to his services throughout the Peninsular campaign; nor to his greater services under Pope; nor his victory at South Mountain, and his all but winning Antietam—each and all exhibitions of that heroic influence “which draws the battle after it.” No one can contemplate his plan for the Chancellorsville campaign without acknowledging that the “practical strategy” which circumvented Lee, “Stonewall” Jackson, and Longstreet, will withstand the closest scrutiny, and even be considered one of the most conspicuous efforts of well-established generalship. Nor will his wonderful march toward Gettysburg fail to claim an equal share of admiration, even when compared with “the unrivalled and exact maneuvering to and from Chancellorsville.”

If he was not permitted to direct in person the decisive battle of the East (Gettysburg), he won it in spirit; for his foresight, energy, and general preparation saved Washington, arrested Lee, and made Gettysburg a possibility.

Transferred to the West, his career was a repetition of the feats of dash and tenacity which characterized his operations under McClellan and Pope. The laurels due to Hooker are many and glorious. Had he been less great than he was, his chances of distinction would have ended when malevolence had goaded him to relinquish his high position as the third commander of the Army of the Potomac.

But it was not so. Justice would not permit it to be so. His fate was not the fate either of his successor or that of his predecessors.

Lookout Mountain, the key-note to Chattanooga, the entering-wedge to the first decisive fight on Missionary Ridge, the American “battle above the clouds,” the most romantic triumph of the whole war, belongs to Hooker alone. That plum was never in-

tended for his share. But Heaven, juster and more merciful than man, determined that he should be the one to plant the banner of the stars upon the loftiest pinnacle ever won throughout the war by force of arms; upon an efflorescence of rock as wonderful as the feat of arms it will ever commemorate; a "pulpit-rock," from which the arch-spirit of the Rebellion, like the veiled prophet of Khorassan (no less dangerous in his instincts and selfish ambition), stood and promised to his deluded followers a triumph as false as the poisoned goblet to a like fanaticized faithful in the halls of Neksheb.

Thenceforward, even to the last, when a second and worse injustice compelled Hooker, through indignant self-respect, to lay down his command in favor of the very general who lost him Chancellorsville, he was always, on every field on which he appeared, the same magnificent picture of a soldier, and the same glorious leader of men, the soldiers of the North. At Ringgold, Mill Creek, Resaca, Cassville, Dallas, Pine Mountain, on the Chattahooche, before Atlanta, but more particularly at Peach Tree Creek, most resplendent honors belong to the great general and soldier who received the thanks of Congress "for the skill, energy, and endurance which, immediately after Chancellorsville, first covered Washington and Baltimore from the meditated blow of the advancing and powerful army of rebels, led by General Robert E. Lee."

Hooker was originally destined for the church. It was a fortunate change for the country when the idea of making him a clergyman was abandoned, and he was sent to West Point in 1833. He graduated in 1837, and as second lieutenant of the First Artillery, saw his first service in the Florida War—a trying field. As first lieutenant in 1838 to 1840, he was on duty on our northern frontier during the "Canada border disturbances," and "disputed territory controversy." Attached to the staff of Brigadier-General Hamar, he was brevetted for his gallantry in the several conflicts ending in the capture of Monterey in 1846; again brevetted for his partici-



pation in the defence of our convoy at the National Bridge, June 11, 1847. He took a prominent part in the combat of La Hoya, June 20th of the same year. He was again conspicuous in the hot and resultive battle of Contreras, August 19th and 20th, which wiped out Valencia's grand division of the Mexican main army; and in the tremendous conflict of Churubusco, August 20th, which would have decided the fall of Mexico on that very day (August 20th) had Scott pushed his advantages, and followed up the marvelous charge made by Kearny.

On September 8th he participated in the bloody engagement which culminated in the storming of Molino del Rey; and he was a third time brevetted lieutenant-colonel for his "gallantry and merit" in connection with the assault of Chapultepec, September 13, 1847. In fact, whatever was accomplished by Pillow's Division, that is, as far as the result was dependent on manipulation, was due to Hooker. Indeed, to use an Americanism, "he ran it," for such was Scott's implicit confidence in Hooker's judgment and his power to influence and direct, he attached him to Pillow as a military mentor, and held him responsible for the proper administration and employment of the command.

As before stated, he resigned February 21, 1853, and converted his sabre into the sickle. For five years and upwards he was a farmer near Sonoma, and often dwells with great satisfaction on his success as an agriculturist in that beautiful valley of California. In 1858-9 he was superintendent of military roads in Oregon and Washington Territory; and during the next two years, until he came East to offer his services to the Government, he was colonel of the California militia.

The splendid record which Hooker had won in Mexico; the bravery and skill which he had manifested on the Aztec fields, paled before his subsequent achievements East and West, against Lee and Johnston, as subordinate, as chief; and again as illustrious lieutenant, assisting in crushing out the Slaveholders' Rebellion.

His *status*, as regards some of the finest characteristics of a sol-

dier, is acknowledged by all those who have the right to constitute themselves as judges. Those who served under him consider it the highest honor to have followed him, for he was one of those glorious spirits who never indicated the fiery ascent to glory, and the bloody avenue to victory, but ever showed the way.

He was one who never said to his soldiers, "Go on," but invariably shouted, "Come on!" Cool and collected, jubilant, while self-possessed amid the perils of battle, his soldiers regarded him as a lode-star to follow, and as a palladium to preserve. Without exercising any of those arts whose illusory display, beyond the rattle and crash of the volley, sometimes wins the affections of a young army, too prone to invest a favorite with attributes which he only possesses in their untutored imagination, Hooker acquired the intense love and high respect of all who served with him, by his magnificent presence and conduct on the field; so that he justified the lofty admiration of those who had witnessed both in the crisis of battle, and the fervid imagination of the poet.

Nor is there any marvel that he was apostrophized by the poet as—

"That glorious chief, to whom was given  
The right to scale the clouds of heaven,  
And bear the starry flag on high,  
Back to its native regions in the sky.  
Behold our general on the rocky height!  
A stately statue in a dome of light;  
With all the rebel army put to rout,  
Our 'fighting' Hooker takes a long Look Out."

Indeed, the very Butternuts could not refrain from cheering him. After carrying Lookout,—when he came sweeping across the "dry valley," taking, in reverse, Bragg's position on Missionary Ridge, rolling the Graybacks up in confusion and defeat, the very rebels he was beating yelled and hurraed for him with a fervor of admiration as honest as the shouts of his own men.

## JAMES B. TAYLOR.

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ON the 22d of August, 1870, the citizens of New York were surprised with the sad intelligence that James B. Taylor, of the city, a prominent and distinguished gentleman, had died suddenly. He was widely known, respected, and esteemed by all for virtue, integrity, and social qualities.

At one time he was politically before the public, and identified with the old Whig party, directing its movements and acting with the public leaders, though declining to accept an office. He denominated himself a "Conservative Republican," but strongly desiring to compromise vexed questions, he was sometimes found undecided about the measures of his party, and rather favoring democracy. He was the personal friend of Governor Seward, and united with him in many political projects of the times. For several years past he had retired from active political life; but his wisdom and judgment of men and measures have been of much service to others and to his country.

Mr. Taylor was born in St. Johnsbury, Connecticut, on the 13th of March, 1806. After receiving an ordinary education at a common school, he accepted the situation of a dry-goods clerk in the store of General May, at Bethel, Vermont. Here he thoroughly learned the mercantile business, and, being successful, he was encouraged to engage in a larger field of enterprise. He came to New York and opened a dry-goods house, and as a merchant was very successful, making many friends, and in due time amassed great wealth.

After a few years' engagement in mercantile pursuits, he commenced a shipping business, which he conducted very successfully,

with much pecuniary advantage. Still later in life he received many contracts given out by the Government of New York City, for building and improvement. He superintended the improvement of West Washington Market, the New Custom-House, Fort Garrison, and other important buildings.

Mr. Taylor married Miss Laura S. daughter of Ebenezer Day, so well and favorably known. Although he never united with the church, he was engaged in doing good as he had opportunity, and gave liberally of his wealth to benevolent and Christian charities; practicing, though not a professor, the great precepts of the gospel. He was highly esteemed by the Rev. Dr. Chapin, of New York, who, though absent at the time of his death, traveled several hundred miles to officiate at his funeral, which was sad and impressive.



## MATTHEW BAIRD.

BY J. ALEXANDER PATTEN.



THE progress of our country in the mechanic arts is one of its grandest achievements. Looking into the shops and factories of to-day, nothing in mechanical ingenuity and skill seems impossible, while so late as forty years ago we had scarcely a tool or a machine. The experiment of republican self-government to be tried on these shores, and the taming of the vast wilderness which now lies fertile and populous before the eye, were no greater or more important problems in the destiny of the American people than the quick and effective supply of the mechanical appliances for a growing country. By the blessing of Providence we had brains and nerve for all the work then before us, and are likely to have until the end of time. But we may well stand in astonishment as we contemplate our mechanical success, and bow reverently to the genius and energy which have produced it. These remarks are rendered pertinent by a review in this place of the career of Matthew Baird, of Philadelphia, and of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, of which he is one of the proprietors.

Matthew Baird was born in Ireland, in 1817, and came to the United States when about four years of age. In 1834 he entered business with the Newcastle Manufacturing Company, at Newcastle, Delaware. The establishment was then building locomotives, but discontinued that branch of manufacture in a few years. He was afterward a foreman in the railroad shops at that place. He went to Philadelphia in June, 1836, as a foreman in the Locomotive Works of the late Matthias W. Baldwin, whose name is imperishably connected with the building and improvement of the locomotive. From that time to the present, covering a period

of thirty-four years, with the exception of twenty months, Mr. Baird has been connected with these works. During the time from February, 1850, to November, 1852, he was engaged in the marble business in Philadelphia. In 1854 he became a copartner with Mr. Baldwin, when the firm became M. W. Baldwin & Co. The business was conducted by Mr. Baldwin in person from 1831 to 1854. In 1867 Mr. Baldwin died, greatly lamented throughout the country. In the same year the business was reorganized and the works designated as the Baldwin Locomotive Works, M. Baird & Co., proprietors. George Burnham and Charles T. Parry were admitted to the copartnership, and three years later, January, 1870, Edward H. Williams, William P. Henszey, and Edward Longstreth became members of the firm.

The present division of duty among the six partners may be here stated. Mr. Baird, by reason of long and intimate connection with the trade, practical experience as a manufacturer, wealth and social position, rightfully is the head of the establishment, and is referred to in all matters of importance both in the production and selling of engines. Mr. Burnham has, since 1838, been in the counting-room; he is properly, therefore, the financial manager, holds the keys of the vaults, looks after the bank account, and takes care of the exchequer, which, in an establishment doing a business to the amount of three and a half million dollars annually, is by no means an ordinary responsibility. Mr. Parry, who began service here in 1836, now holds the general supervision of the works, of the condition and order of the shops, material brought in, and manufactures sent out. Mr. Williams is a "railroad man," with eighteen years' experience in the management of the best-conducted roads in the United States, and his knowledge of what is required in actual service enables him intelligently to receive and apply the suggestions relating to the details of work. Mr. Henszey is the chief of the drawing department, with fifteen years' experience as a mechanical engineer. Mr. Longstreth, who, some thirteen years ago, entered the works as an apprentice in the machine-shops, and before the end of his ap-

prenticeship was made foreman of one of the shops, is now the superintendent of construction, ordering and overseeing the work in every department. Under these partners are private secretaries, book-keepers, draughtsmen, assistants, foremen, managers, inspectors, bosses, and watchmen, who see that orders are delivered and obeyed with precision and dispatch. System and punctuality are the rule in every thing done. Eighteen hundred workmen are employed, who turn out a locomotive each day. These works were not only the first established in America, but are the largest, in the capacity of number of locomotives constructed, in the world.

Mr. Matthias W. Baldwin is entitled to the immortal honor of being the builder of the first successful locomotive made in the United States. It was constructed in 1832, on an order from the Germantown Railroad Company. Previous to that date only three locomotives had been built in this country, none of which gave satisfaction. In 1828 the first locomotive was imported from England, and another was imported in 1830, but they did not answer. In April, 1831, Mr. Baldwin exhibited a miniature locomotive engine drawing two cars, with seats for four persons which worked successfully, and led to the giving of the order before mentioned. He had great difficulties to contend with. There were in Philadelphia only five machinists who could do any part of the work on a locomotive. No blacksmith could be found able to weld a bar of iron exceeding  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches in thickness and the welding of a tire  $5 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  inches was a feat beyond the capacity of any forge in the State. The only contrivance in use whereby a cylinder could be bored out was a chisel, fixed in a round stick of wood, turned by means of a crank and worked by hand. Planing and slotting machines were unknown.

Thus without tools or models, Mr. Baldwin entered upon his work. But he had an original and fertile genius to guide him, and on the 23d of November, 1832, six months after receiving the order, he placed the completed locomotive on the road. It was called the "Ironsides," and was an entire success, running a mile in

less than a minute. Hundreds of people went to the line of the road to witness its performances, and eagerly paid for the privilege of so novel a ride. The following advertisement is from a Philadelphia paper of the day :—

“NOTICE.—The engine (built by Mr. Baldwin) with a train of cars will run daily (commencing this day) when the weather is fair.

“When the weather is not fair the horses will draw the cars the four trips.”

Railroad engineers had not yet learned to sand the track in rainy weather. However absurd it may now appear, engines were then housed in wet weather and horses rested on clear days.

Mr. Baldwin's great reputation as a locomotive builder began from this hour, and he devoted his brilliant mechanical mind during the remainder of his life to the improvement of this kind of machinery. Before the close of 1834 he had completed five engines. He erected new shops on Broad Street, above Callowhill Street, where the works are still located. In 1835 fourteen locomotives were built, in 1836, forty, and in 1837, forty-five. The business was therefore fully established, and has grown from year to year, experiencing with other departments of manufacture and trade periodical revulsions, until the Baldwin Locomotive Works have reached their present extent. In a third of a century, the capacity of manufacture and business has increased from one small engine in six months to one engine a day, or over three hundred of the most powerful and complete railroad locomotives in a year. Mr. Baldwin made many improvements in the construction of the locomotive, and his successors are prepared by talents and experience to maintain the reputation of the establishment for its work.

Twenty-three different classes of engines are made at the Baldwin Locomotive Works, which vary in weight from fourteen thousand pounds to ninety thousand pounds. The proprietors have for years been engaged in perfecting a system of engines adapted to economical work on almost any grade or curve. Some of their engines have performed as much as one hundred thousand miles



without any repairs, and one hundred and fifty thousand miles with slight repairs.

An ordinary locomotive consists of about four thousand different parts or pieces, of these about three hundred are forgings, about four hundred are iron castings, and two hundred are brass castings. Nearly five hundred machines are required in executing the work. Every piece of a kind belonging to each class is made exactly the same by the most accurate measurement, and by a system of standard gauges. If an engineer in Oregon should telegraph to the Baldwin Locomotive Works that the piston rod or a crosshead of a locomotive of a certain class made by them was broken, a duplicate, certain to fit with absolute exactness, could be forwarded at once.

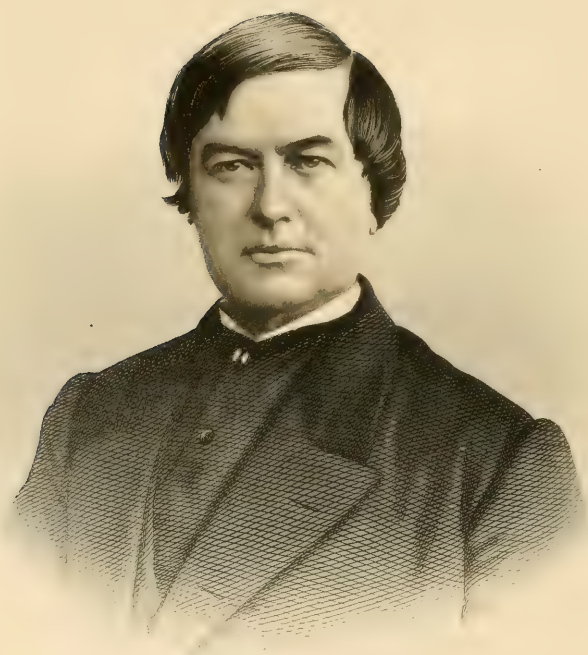
The Baldwin Locomotive Works have an area of two hundred and forty thousand square feet. On the center of the Broad Street front, stands the memorable old shop, three stories in height, erected by Mr. Baldwin in 1834. Within the last few years large additions have been made to the buildings and facilities for manufacturing. They erected a foundry one hundred and nine by ninety feet; a three-story erecting shop, having three fronts on different streets, respectively of two hundred and six feet, one hundred and thirty-three feet, and sixty-eight feet; and a smith shop one hundred and eighty by one hundred and sixty feet. The whole establishment presents a completeness in both arrangement and machinery equal to any other in this country or Europe.

In tracing the history of these great locomotive works, we have necessarily also sketched the career of Mr. Baird. He began his efforts in them, in their infancy, and in his own early manhood, and they have literally grown with his own mental and bodily powers. He shared all the responsibilities and hopes of the illustrious Baldwin, whose mantle has with entire appropriateness fallen upon his shoulders.

Mr. Baird is a man of a large round figure, with a head in massive proportions to suit his ample body. His features are regular, and expressive of a far-reaching mind and of agreeable qualities of

character. His manners are quiet and self-possessed. He is not inclined to show or boastfulness in any particular, but delights in the exhibition of honest virtues and noble purposes. Rising to his present position of business and social influence by industry and an honorable life, his sympathies are always with the toiling masses. In the midst of his vast interests and the irresistible tide of business, he shows himself constantly thoughtful of his army of workmen, and does much by counsel and benevolence to encourage them in their station. He is esteemed and beloved by all who know him in personal relations, and his mechanical labors and enterprise make him worthy of an enduring fame.






Quincy



## CASSIUS MARCELLUS CLAY.

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ASSIUS MARCELLUS CLAY was born October 19, 1810, at his paternal home in the county of Madison and State of Kentucky, United States of America. He was the sixth child and third son of Green and Sally Clay. The Clays, including Henry, were descended from two brothers, Henry and John Clay, who emigrated from Wales in Great Britain, in the year of 1662, to the State of Virginia. Henry and Green emigrated early in life to Kentucky. Green Clay was a pioneer, contemporary with Daniel Boone, and was one of the founders of the Kentucky constitution. When the War of 1812 broke out between England and the American Union, General G. Clay took command of the Kentucky Volunteers, and distinguished himself at Fort Meigs, where the Indians and British were defeated.

He married Sally Lewis, daughter of Thomas Lewis, of Fayette County. She was a lineal descendant of that Payne, of Virginia, who is mentioned favorably in history as connected with George Washington, and she was also descended from the Douglas's of Scotland, which continues a family name to this day.

Green Clay, like Washington, was a pioneer land-surveyor, and accumulated a large fortune. Cassius M. commenced a classical education with Joshua Fry, Esq., in Garrard County, Kentucky, passed through Transylvania University to the senior year, under President Wood; joined the junior class of Yale College in 1832, and graduated the next year in that celebrated university. In the college societies he distinguished himself as a debater, and was chosen by the senior class to deliver the annual address in honor of Washington's centennial birthday. William Lloyd Garrison, at

that time obscure, had just made one of his bold denunciatory lectures against slavery. A public meeting was held in one of the churches of New Haven, in which Garrison was denounced in unmeasured terms. These false sentiments found no response in Mr. Clay's convictions, and in his Washingtonian address he expressed in decided terms his want of sympathy with the defenders of slavery. These declarations at the time caused much comment, and were remembered when his subsequent career was developed. As soon as he was eligible he was chosen a representative in the lower House of the Kentucky Legislature, from his native county.

He was a bold and successful advocate of what has been designated as the system of "Internal Improvements," and through his efforts established a common-school system. Finding that after being three times returned to the Legislature, twice from Madison County and last from Fayette,—“Henry Clay's County,”—that the slaveholders were systematically the opposers of the education of the people, he came out boldly against slavery. As his career of State action in defense of the freedom of speech and of the press is well-known, we omit the history here of the *True American*, the mobs and assaults, which need more space than is here possible. He canvassed the North in 1842, in favor of Henry Clay, against James K. Polk, and against the slaveholders' scheme of Texas annexation and slavery extension, and everywhere addressed immense crowds with telling effect. Henry Clay's unfortunate letter ignoring the great issue of slavery, gave some votes to James G. Birney, the abolition candidate, and thus the Whigs lost the election.

But believing that when the country was at war, all party questions should be merged in patriotic defense, he joined the volunteers who went to the standard of General Taylor in Texas. In a scouting party at the hacienda of Encarnacion, in Mexico, under the command of Major Boland, of Arkansas, he was made prisoner. When Captain J. Henry escaped, he, by his presence of mind, saved the prisoners from death, and in the march to Mexico shared his small means liberally with the soldiers. So when Major Gaines and Ber-

land violated their parole and escaped, he stood by the soldiers; and by his efforts effected a march to the city of Mexico, where they were exchanged for Mexican prisoners of war. He was the most popular man in his corps, and was recommended for promotion, but the slaveholding interest interfered. But on his return home he received such a popular ovation in Lexington, as had never before been made to any citizen; and a magnificent sword was presented to him by the people of Kentucky. Mr. Clay supported General Taylor for President, being one of the delegates from Fayette County who nominated him in Frankfort, Kentucky. But finding the Whig party wanting in liberalism, he ran as independent candidate for Governor of Kentucky, and as the advocate of emancipation. He broke down the Whig candidate in the State, and built up, for the first time, a Republican party in the Slave States. He supported Fremont for the Presidency. In the Chicago Convention he was second on the list, for Vice President: and would have been nominated, but that it was not deemed prudent to have two candidates from the West. The friends of Wm. H. Seward, believing that Mr. Clay could have given him the nomination over Lincoln, have, with their chief, ever since shown feelings of resentment against Cassius M. Clay. Mr. Lincoln had written a letter to Mr. Clay after his election, promising him the post of Secretary of War. This Mr. Seward, who was made Secretary of State, prevented, putting Simon Cameron, of Pennsylvania, in that place. Mr. Clay was made minister to Spain, but refused to take any office after he was not made Secretary of War as promised. By the persuasion, however, of Senator Baker, who fell at Ball's Bluff, he was induced to take the mission to Russia, as his refusal to take office might have weakened the administration, already in a minority. Mr. Clay arriving in England, was induced by Americans there to publish his "*Times Letter*;" and for the same reason to join in the Breakfast Speeches in Paris. His friends claim that he exercised a wholesome influence on the British and French people, who were at bottom, in spite of the ruling classes, the friends, throughout the war, of the

American Union. When the war broke out Mr. Clay raised two volunteer companies in Washington City, and in conjunction with James Lane, and as colonel of both forces, defended the capital, which the rebels had conspired to take, until the Seventh Regiment of New York and the Massachusetts forces came to the relief of the city. The service was of inestimable value, for had the chiefs of the army and the government been taken, no one can tell what would have been the effect on the result of the war. For this service Mr. Clay and friends received the public thanks of President Lincoln, and the present of a pistol from the Secretary of War. The New York Union Safety Committee recommended Mr. Clay for the post of Major-General, which would have placed him in rank above all the generals of the army "save General Scott." This he wisely declined, as it would have given just offense to the regular army officers. But Mr. Clay promised that if he could be of any use, in consequence of so much treason in the army, his services were at Mr. Lincoln's command at any time. Upon this pretext Mr. Seward re-called Mr. Clay from Russia in 1862, the rank of major-general being conferred upon him. This was neither desired nor expected by Mr. Clay; and it appears that Mr. Seward was at the bottom of the intrigue.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Aug. 12, 1862.

HON. CASSIUS M. CLAY:

*My Dear Sir,*—I learn that you would not dislike returning to Russia as Minister Plenipotentiary. You were not recalled for any fault of yours, but, as understood, it was done at your request. Of course, there is no personal objection to your reappointment. Still General Cameron can not be recalled except by his request. Some conversation passing between him and myself renders it due that he should not resign without full notice of my intention to reappoint you. If he resign with such full knowledge and understanding, I shall be quite willing, and even gratified, to again send you to Russia.

Your Ob't Serv't,

A. LINCOLN.

When Mr. Clay reached America, he found General Halleck and others returning the captured and fugitive slaves of the rebels to their masters. In speeches at Brooklyn and Washington he denounced this practice—saying "he would never draw his sword in



such a cause; for how could we call upon the God of battles to save our liberties, when we ourselves struck down the liberties of the blacks?"

From the beginning of the war, in his speech at Willard's Hotel, he demanded the liberation of the blacks; and now urged it with so much force on President Lincoln, that he sent Mr. Clay on a secret mission to Kentucky,—to sound the people of the State,—to see if they would submit loyally to a proclamation of freedom to the slaves. Mr. Clay was heard in the Hall of the House of Representatives by the House and the Senate of Kentucky, and his bold and patriotic sentiments were received with acclamation in the capitol from which a few years ago he was excluded—speaking in darkness on its steps to a threatening mob in behalf of liberty and equality to all before the law. This last speech was reported in full in the *Cincinnati Gazette* of 1862—was shown to Mr. Lincoln, and in a few days thereafter the celebrated proclamation of September 22d was made.

Mr. Clay, finding that he was likely, as had been all the Republican generals, to be ruined by Halleck, he returned, against the intrigues and opposition of Seward, to Russia, when, of all our ministers, he only was successful in keeping the Russian government actively on the side of the Union, and thus prevented France and England from an armed intervention, and made it possible for us to acquire Alaska.

Mr. Clay was friendly to Mr. Lincoln's re-election, whose great talents and love of country he so well knew and appreciated. After the conquest of the South, Mr. Clay recommended a magnanimous policy, declaring that—after the salvation of the Union and the freedom of the slave were assured—the South should be forgiven, and the rebellion forgotten. He was opposed to the extreme measures of the party, and against the impeachment of Andrew Johnson. But when that ambitious man was induced by Mr. Seward, for his own ends, to attempt to build up a new party, led by "unrepentant rebels," Mr. Clay refused to follow Mr. Seward in his war upon

the Republican party. For this, Mr. Seward again attempted to recall Mr. Clay, but the Senate of the United States stood by him, and he continued in office under General Grant, whose election he favored, until the first of October, 1869, when he voluntarily returned home, having for the third time defeated his arch enemy—William H. Seward. Before General Clay reached home, he was offered by his friends a public reception in New York, and in his own State; but he refused, preferring to take a mature view of the political situation. He had resolved, for the present, to retire entirely into private life. *Universal emancipation and equality before the law for all* having been achieved, he formed business connections in New York, intending to retrieve, if possible, his pecuniary means, which a life of devotion to the public weal had greatly shattered; but while there, he saw, with indignation, a Spanish fleet fitted out in New-York harbor against the Cubans and blacks, in revolt against the tyranny of Spain. He joined in the public mass-meeting held last spring in the Cooper Institute; and was the leading speaker in denouncing the cowardice and imbecility of Secretary Fish's foreign policy. He drew up the resolutions in favor of Cuba, which were unanimously passed, and was chosen, without a dissenting voice, President of the Cuban Association by that meeting.

Mr. Clay thus stands boldly in his old rôle of defender of universal liberty and republicanism; and will support only such Presidential candidates for 1872 as will prove faithful to the great principles of his life, for which no man living or dead has made more pecuniary and personal sacrifices.

## RUFUS HATCH.

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RUFUS HATCH was born June 24, 1832, in Wells, York County, Maine. His father, after whom he was named, was a farmer by occupation, and held various positions of trust in the town and county of his residence. The son, the subject of our present sketch, while a child, was always in delicate health, and, as a consequence, combined with the limited education that a country district-school afforded, his advantages in that respect were not at all as they might have been.

When fifteen years of age, he was engaged as clerk in a country store, and, after the labors of the day were ended, would spend his evenings in study and in making recitations before the village schoolmaster, thus self-educating and preparing his mind for what was to follow. At nineteen years of age, he left his home, kindred, and friends for the then far, and almost unknown, free, glorious West, and settled in the town of Rockford, Illinois. He then joined a company of engineers, and was afterwards engaged in surveying the land for the first railroad ever built in the State of Wisconsin, and which is now a portion of the great corporation known as the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company of Illinois. After its completion, he went back to Rockford, Illinois, as a clerk in a mercantile house, and while there, was married, in the year 1853, to an estimable lady, a namesake, but no relation, Miss Charlotte Hatch, by whom he has three children, all living. The year following, viz., in 1854, he removed to Chicago, and went into business for himself as a grain broker, and was the first man to gather and collect the statistics of the grain trade for the use and benefit of the business public. He soon became prominent in mercantile

circles as a member of the firm of Messrs. Armstrong & Co., grain merchants, who failed in the year 1856, occasioned by the heavy decline in breadstuffs, consequent upon the sudden ending of the Crimean War in Europe. Their liabilities being large, and the majority of grain merchants and others thereabouts likewise meeting with similar misfortunes, the indebtedness of Armstrong & Co. was never settled until long after they were legally outlawed, when Mr. Rufus Hatch, who had by this time become comparatively rich, took it upon himself, and paid the entire indebtedness of the firm, with interest in full, which had then almost become double the original amount. Never having compromised a single debt, such an honorable financial record deserves to be forever prominently known and emblazoned to the entire business world.

In the year 1862 he left Chicago, and went to New York City with two thousand dollars, and boldly entered the speculative arena of Wall Street, where fortunes are made and lost in a day, and sometimes in an hour. He was successful, and became wealthy, and was very prominently identified with the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company, in buying up its stock at low prices, and placing the credit of the corporation at and near par, where before it had always ruled very low, thus showing his natural sagacity about railroad matters, and which has been repeatedly evidenced since. He is the only successful Wall Street financier who always candidly and truthfully told of his intended future operations, and enabled others as well as himself to acquire wealth by his enlarged and liberal views. This seems to have been the key to his success. The financial public, who formerly were purposely led astray by the other Wall Street magnates, soon learned to place their whole faith and dependence upon their new leader, the result of which is that he has only to give out an idea, when it is instantly caught up by others, and carried to a successful issue by the aid of his assistance. There are scores of people to-day, who owe their pecuniary all (in some cases, amounting to entire fortunes) to this



candor and frankness of his, and a perpetual desire to do good unto others as well as himself.

He is a man of great originality, and is eccentric, bold, positive, fearless, and impulsive in all he says and in all he does—never forgets a favor, or forgives an injury. In person, he is of medium size, with a genial, frank, open face, and a pleasant word and smile for every one; but there are times, when engaged in deep thought and study, that he seems to be oblivious to everything going on around him, but yet observes everything. In dress he is simple and unostentatious, his daily habits partaking of the like characteristics. His works of charity are equally quiet and modest, never letting “the right hand know what the left hand doeth.” Benevolent enterprises owe to him very much, but publicity is never allowed to his generosity. He is more than liberal in church matters, and a worthy cause or case was never known to appeal to him in vain. The friends of his boyhood-days, if in want, have not, either, been forgotten. An instance, among others, just comes to our recollection, of a man now old and feeble, who once in that time loaned Mr. Hatch three hundred dollars. That old gentleman, and a great many more similarly circumstanced, are regular recipients of his bounty, and are not allowed to have any ordinary want go ungratified so far as his open purse can fulfil their desires. But the victims of misfortune, especially those who have been unfortunate in their business, are the ones that particularly claim, and themselves proclaim, his disinterested and noble generosity. His friendship, influence, and practical succor, in such cases, are a matter of pleasing comment by all his business associates and those whose privilege it is to have his acquaintance. Being a man of natural artistic taste, and some self-acquired attainments in that respect, he is only too glad to assist struggling talents if he thinks they are but worthy, and there are artists to-day occupying some of the proudest positions in their respective professions who are solely indebted to him for the better knowledge and culture they enjoy, some of whom he sent

to Europe for that purpose, and defrayed the whole expenses attendant thereon.

Financial matters generally engross the major portion of his attention, being known as a powerful and sagacious writer and thinker upon such topics. He was one of the first men in the country who predicted the enormous power and inflation from the issue, by the government, of paper currency. He was, and is, also, just as strenuously of the opinion that the culminating point has been reached, and lower values must take their places until gold reaches par, principally on account of the contraction policy pursued by the present administration.

He was one of the few original men to organize and perfect the late "Open Board of Brokers," of which, at different times, before its consolidation with the New York Stock Exchange, he was elected as its presiding officer, and it was only because his own private affairs were so exacting, that he had to decline the nomination as president of the latter institution, which had been personally tendered him by as many as three-fourths of its members. He is connected with various banking and financial institutions and corporations, and bestows a proper interest in the welfare of each, in addition to his other multifarious duties.

## HON. HENRY WILSON.

BY J. ALEXANDER PATTEN.



THE statesmanship and public labors of the Hon. Henry Wilson belong to a period of his country's history which must ever give them prominence in the eyes of the present and all coming generations. Close in his relationship to one of the great political parties, he has, as much as any of his contemporaries, made its policy and legislation identical with national strength and freedom. He is not a statesman of theories of governmental policy, but one who is a worker for undeniable principles. Humbly born, he is self-educated and self-made. Patriotic with every pulsation of his being he has been a safe man for the public councils in the emergency of the nation, and his exalted personal worth has given more power to his opinions and acts.

Henry Wilson was born at Farmington, New Hampshire, February 16, 1812. Though now fifty-eight years of age, he is in the prime of mental and physical activity. His parents were poor, and at the age of ten years he was bound to a farmer until he was twenty-one. These were eleven years of almost incessant work. He had a few weeks' schooling at the district school in winter, in all amounting to not more than one year. His desire for knowledge was a passion with him, and he gratified it under great difficulties. By the twilight, firelight, and on Sundays he was always found poring over some instructive book. He obtained his books from the school libraries, and every individual who would lend him one. He was particularly fond of geography, biography, and general literature, and during the time of his apprenticeship read not less than one thousand volumes.

At twenty-one he went to Natick, Massachusetts, to learn the

trade of shoemaker. He had good health, and a mind trained and informed by his reading, but all his worldly possessions were packed upon his back. Obtaining work, he continued at it for over two years, living with rigid economy and self-denial, in order to save something to attend an academy. He entered the academy at Concord and Wolfsborough, New Hampshire, but his studies were at length interrupted by the loss of his money, through the insolvency of the person with whom he had intrusted it. In 1838 he returned to Natick to resume his trade of shoemaking. But he determined to unite study with his daily toil. Means of doing this were secured by forming a debating society among the young mechanics of the place; investigating subjects, reading, and writing, he accustomed himself to speak on all the themes of the day, and showed a talent for oratory as well as keen powers of argument. His undoubted ability had already attracted attention, and he was regarded as a man who was destined to rise from the ranks of the people to positions of influence and honor.

In 1840 Wilson commenced his political career in the service of the then powerful Whig party. He engaged with ardor in the Harrison and Tyler campaign, and was brought out as a public speaker. In about four months he made sixty speeches, which were eloquent and effective in the highest degree. The triumphs of his party in the Presidential election, and his own efficient services gave him much additional prominence. During the succeeding five years he was three times elected a representative, and twice a senator, to the Legislature of Massachusetts. "Having entered life on the working-man's side," says Mrs. Stowe in her biography of Mr. Wilson, "and known by his own experience the working-man's trials, temptations and hard struggles, he felt the sacredness of a poor man's labor and entered public life with a heart to take the part of the toiling and the oppressed.

"Of course he was quick to feel that the great question of our times was the question of labor, and its rights and rewards. He was quick to feel the irrepressible conflict, which Seward so happily



designated, between the two modes of society existing in America, and to know that they must fight and struggle till one of them throttled and killed the other; and prompt to understand this, he made his early election to live or die on the side of the laboring poor, whose most oppressed type was the African slave."

In the Legislature his fixed opposition to slavery was at once apparent. In 1846 he introduced a resolution declaring the unalterable hostility of Massachusetts to the further extension and longer continuance of slavery in the United States. His speech on this occasion was pronounced by Mr. Garrison the fullest and most comprehensive on the slavery question that had yet been delivered in any legislative body in the country. The resolution was adopted by a large majority, but defeated in the Senate. During the year 1845 he went with the poet Whittier to Washington with the remonstrance of Massachusetts against the admission of Texas as a slave State. From the date of these proceedings to the end of the struggle Mr. Wilson held a foremost place among the anti-slavery men of the nation.

On the rejection of the anti-slavery resolutions presented to the Whig National Convention, to which he was a delegate, Mr. Wilson promptly withdrew from it. Subsequently he was one of the most energetic and efficient organizers in forming the Free Soil party of Massachusetts. To aid this movement he bought a daily paper in Boston, which for some time he edited with great ability. For four years he was chairman of the Free Soil State Committee of Massachusetts. In 1850 he was again a representative in the legislature; and in 1851 and 1852 was a member of the Senate and president of the body. In 1852 he was the president of the Free Soil National Convention at Pittsburgh, and chairman of the National Committee. He was the Free Soil candidate for Congress in the same year. In 1853 and 1854 he was an unsuccessful candidate for governor of Massachusetts, and in the first-named year he was an active and influential member of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention. His first election to the Senate of the

United States took place in 1855 to fill a vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Edward Everett. He has been twice re-elected to the same office by a vote nearly unanimous.

In February, 1855, he took his seat in the Senate. A few days later he made a speech, in which he announced for himself and his anti-slavery friends uncompromising hostility to the institution of slavery, or as he expressed it in the words of Jefferson, "to every kind of oppression over the mind and body of man." He kept his promise to the letter. Shrinking from no responsibility and no labors, he stood throughout the whole contest unflinching in courage, and untiring in effort for his cause. His speeches were singularly free from all attempts of rhetoric, while they were made profound by his minute acquaintance and close analysis of his subject. "Not even John Quincy Adams or Charles Sumner," says Mrs. Stowe, "could show a more perfect knowledge of what they were talking about than Henry Wilson. Whatever extraneous stores of knowledge and *belles lettres* may have been possessed by any of his associates, no man on the floor of the Senate could know more of the *United States of America* than he; and what was wanting in the graces of the orator, or the refinements of the rhetorician, was more than made amends for in the steady, irresistible, strong tread of the honest man, determined to accomplish a worthy purpose."

In 1856 he was challenged to fight a duel by Mr. Preston S. Brooks, of South Carolina. This was occasioned by language used by Mr. Wilson in denouncing the personal assault made by Mr. Brooks upon Mr. Sumner. Mr. Wilson declined the challenge in firm and manly terms.

When the war with the South broke out, Mr. Wilson was one of the few men of the country who realized its nature and probable magnitude. Instead of seventy-five thousand troops he advised a call for three hundred thousand. He induced the Secretary of War to double the number of regiments assigned to Massachusetts, and in the prompt forwarding of these troops he was especially active. After the defeat at Bull Run, at the solicitation of differ-

ent members of the cabinet, Mr. Wilson returned to Massachusetts to raise a body of infantry, sharp-shooters, and artillery. He succeeded in enlisting twenty-three hundred men. He was commissioned colonel of the Twenty-second Regiment, and with his regiment, a company of sharp-shooters, and the Third Battery of artillery, he returned to Washington. Afterward, as aid on the staff of General McClellan, Mr. Wilson served until the beginning of the following year, when pressing duties in Congress compelled him to resign his military commission. At all times he was the friend of the soldiers, and gave much time to visiting the camps and hospitals to see personally to their wants.

At the commencement of the war the Senate had assigned to Mr. Wilson the chairmanship of the Military Committee. No person could have been better qualified by capacity and experience for this important position. His exertions and achievements quite astonished others who were in the public service. General Scott declared that Mr. Wilson accomplished more work in three months than had been done by all the chairmen of the Military Committee in twenty years.

An enumeration of the leading measures that he introduced during the war shows that he grappled with the gigantic conflict in all its parts. On the second day of the Extra Session he introduced a bill authorizing the employment of five hundred thousand volunteers for three years, and subsequently a bill authorizing the acceptance of five hundred thousand volunteers additional. Other bills related to the appointment of army officers, the purchase of arms and munitions of war, and increasing the pay of private soldiers—all of which were enacted. He originated and carried through bills relating to courts-martial, allotment certificates, army signal department, sutlers and their duties, the army medical department, encouragement of enlistments, making free the wives and children of colored soldiers, a uniform system of army ambulances, increasing still further the pay of soldiers, calling out the military forces by draft, establishing a national military and naval asylum for totally

disabled officers and men of the volunteer forces, encouraging the employment of disabled and discharged soldiers, securing to colored soldiers equality of pay, and other provisions. He introduced the bill abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia, and the law of May 21, 1862, providing for the equality, before the law, of the colored people of the District. Another measure was an amendment to the Militia Bill of 1795, which made negroes a part of the militia, and provided for the freedom of all such men of color as should be called into the service of the United States, as well as the freedom of their mothers, wives, and children, and the abolition of Peonage in New Mexico. Few other legislators in the world's history can present an array of measures so numerous and momentous in their character as that here given in connection with Mr. Wilson. After the close of the war he also originated legislation for the reduction of the army, and reconstruction, and was prominent in urging measures to meet the new condition of the Southern States, and of the country at large.

He made an extended tour through the South, and delivered a number of addresses on political and national topics. During the Grant and Colfax campaign he showed his usual zeal. His speeches were regarded as among the ablest delivered on the Republican side. Of late he has made frequent addresses at temperance and religious meetings, having a warm sympathy with all efforts for the moral and Christian regeneration of his fellow-men.

Mr. Wilson is the author of a "History of the Anti-Slavery Measures of the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eight Congresses," and "History of the Reconstruction Measures of the Thirty-ninth Congress." He is also an occasional contributor to the *Atlantic Monthly* and the newspapers. His writings are characterized by fluency of diction and accuracy in the statement of facts. Mr. Wilson is now engaged in writing an elaborate work entitled the "Rise and Fall of the Slave Power in America," in three volumes.

In appearance Mr. Wilson is of the medium height, with a sound and erect figure. He is active, and shows his great physical




vitality and energy in all his movements. His head is large, with regular, though prominent, and expressive features. His hair is straight and abundant, and now becoming quite gray. In his manners he is particularly courteous and gentle. Any person can approach him with the certainty of receiving the most respectful attention. This natural kindness of his nature gives, however, no idea of his sternness and inflexibility in all matters of principle. In this respect, he is fearless, out-spoken, and bitter. He makes no compromises, is at everlasting war with the issue presented, and gives his whole energy of body and mind to the overthrow and destruction of the adversary. Such is the character of Henry Wilson. Socially he is a pattern of benignity, meekness, and generosity. But in the battle of his age for great reforms he is a Hercules for labor, and a relentless, unsparing, and unwearying champion of every cause in which he engages.



## JOHN G. SAXE.

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JOHN G. SAXE, LL. D., an American poet, was born at Highgate, Franklin County, Vermont, on the 2d of June, 1816. His father, Hon. Peter Saxe, a native of Ulster County, New York, was a farmer, mill-owner, and merchant in Highgate, at a place called "Saxe's Mills," where in the early part of the war of the Revolution, John Saxe, grandfather of John G. (a native of Langensalza, Germany), built the first grist mill erected in northern Vermont.

After spending his youth in the district schools of the neighborhood, and in the labor of the farm, the subject of this notice spent two years at the Franklin County Grammar School in St. Albans; and in the fall of 1835 entered the Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn. At the close of his Freshman year he entered Middlebury College in his native State, where three years later he took his degree of A. B., and four years afterward that of A. M. In 1866 he received from his *Alma Mater* the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. As a student at college, though averse to mathematics, he delighted in the "humanities," and of these his favorite study was the Greek tongue, in which he easily excelled. How much his poems—grave and gay—are indebted to his Hellenic scholarship, the classical reader has not failed to discover. Of the Roman authors whose works were in the college *curriculum*, his favorite was Horace, to whom in wit, fancy, philosophy, geniality, and worldly wisdom he has been said to bear a closer resemblance than to any other poet, ancient or modern. Of Mr. Saxe in his college days, Dr. Griswold says, "he was well known for his manly character, good sense, genial humor, and, for an under-graduate, large acquaintance with

literature." He speaks of him further as "one of the best of conversationists, who wasted more wit in a day, than would set up a *Yankee Punch* or a score of *Yankee Doodles*." It is the privilege of the writer, whose good fortune it has been to meet him socially on different occasions in later years, to bear witness that the fund of wit and wisdom of which Mr. Griswold speaks was not *all* exhausted in his youth, but that in the ripeness of maturer years he is gifted with the rare power to make listening a source of profit as well as a very great pleasure.

Having studied law the prescribed term, Mr. Saxe was admitted to the bar in 1843, and practiced his profession in Franklin Co., until March, 1850, when he removed to Burlington, where he purchased the *Sentinel* newspaper, which he conducted for five years. Though at no time greatly addicted to politics Mr. Saxe has always been identified with the Democratic party, and, in 1851, being nominated as their candidate for State Attorney, was elected to that office, beating his Whig opponent by a small majority. A few years later (1859-1860) he was twice the candidate of his party for governor; but with no other success than to run very handsomely ahead of a ticket that, by the very disproportion of parties in Vermont, was quite certain to be defeated. The first campaign gave occasion to a repartee which caused much merriment at the time and was widely circulated in the newspapers. Being interrupted in a public speech by a person in the crowd, who shouted out that Mr. Saxe was "too young to be governor!" the orator replied, "the objection is not important—I suspect I shall be old enough for the office *by the time I get it!*"

It is remarkable that Mr. Saxe showed no particular taste for poetry while in college. His first essays in verse appeared in the *Knickerbocker Magazine*, several years after his marriage (1841), and were written, like many of his subsequent poems, in intervals of his labors as lawyer and editor. A small collection appeared from the press of Ticknor & Co., Boston, in 1849; another, entitled "The Money King, and Other Poems," in 1859; another, en-



titled "Clever Stories of many Nations, rendered in Rhyme," an illustrated book, in 1865; another, entitled "The Masquerade, and Other Poems," in 1866. In 1869 all these were gathered in an elegant volume called the "Farringford Edition;" and in 1870 appeared the "Highgate Edition," including some "Later Poems," and being a complete collection of his poems in five hundred pages, and the *thirty-fourth* edition of his poems, reckoning from the first issue in 1849. In 1866 a volume of his poems was published by a London house, "pirated" from the thirteenth American edition. Of this book the *Athenæum*, which seldom has a word of approbation for anything American, says: "Mr. Saxe, as a writer of sparkling *vers de société*, has for many years enjoyed a wide popularity in the United States and ought to meet with a similar acceptance in England."

We lack space for any sufficient examination and estimate of Mr. Saxe's poems; and must be content with fragments of review by other pens. E. P. Whipple, one of the ablest and most judicious of critics, speaking of the longer poems, says, "They abound in sense, shrewdness, and fancy—in sparkling wit, in humor, and good humor; and flow on their rhythmic and rhyming way with the easy abandonment of vivacious conversation;" and he commends the shorter pieces as surpassing these "in brilliancy, in keen satire, in facility and variety of versification, and in joyousness in spirit." Horace Greeley, in a recent elaborate review in the New York *Tribune*, says: "Mr. Saxe's position in American poetry has been decided by the verdict of the public, and is confirmed by the demand for many successive editions of his works. His name has been spread from the ocean to the mountains, and repeated echoes have made it familiar to every tongue. If not the most profound, he is certainly the most popular of our native bards. Mr. Saxe's sarcasm is usually keen and polished, but never malignant. He exhibits no passion for censure: no Byronic cynicism shows him to be ill at ease with the world; he seems like a prosperous gentleman of cheerful yesterdays and confident to-morrows.' It may not be

amiss here to say that Mr. Saxe is no exception to the rule that American poets *are* 'prosperous gentlemen,' and in person and property bears no resemblance to the pallid and impecunious poet of tradition."

It is notable that, while Mr. Saxe's earlier poems are nearly all satirical or humorous, his later productions are mainly sentimental, some, indeed, profoundly emotional and others tenderly pathetic. His sonnets and love poems have been declared by a critical reader to be "gems—pregnant with poetic feeling and finished with consummate art."

As a post-prandial speaker Mr. Saxe has rare gifts, always commanding the instant and uninterrupted attention of his audience, to many of whom the few timely words of the hour are the pleasant remembrance of a life-time; and, though known far more widely as a poet, in the higher paths of oratory he has given such substantial evidence of power as to be entitled to high rank among those whose reputation rests upon the solid achievements of men who have made speech golden.

Quitting the law and journalism in 1860, Mr. Saxe has since devoted his time almost exclusively to literature and lecturing. As one of the "regular army" of lyceum-lecturers he has spoken over twelve hundred times, in prose and verse, in a range of country extending from Bangor to San Francisco. He is tall, of robust physique; has a wife and five children, and resides at Albany, New York.

## GENERAL GEORGE W. CASS.

BY J. TRAINOR KING.



GENERAL GEORGE W. CASS, the president of the consolidated chain of railway extending from Pittsburgh to Chicago, known as the "Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railway," was born in Muskingum County, in the State of Ohio, in 1810, of New England parents, one of whom came to Western Virginia, near Parkersburg, in 1794, and the other to Marietta, Ohio, in 1801; finally locating on a farm, on the Muskingum River, north of Zanesville, where the subject of this sketch was born, and lived in his youth. Owing to the schools in that then new region being of the most elementary character, he was sent to Detroit in 1824, for the purpose of being educated at the Detroit Academy, a most excellent school, then under the charge of Rev. Ashbel Wells. During his residence in Detroit (1824-27), he was a member of the family of General Lewis Cass, at the time, governor of the Territory of Michigan. Having obtained an appointment from his native State as a cadet at the United States Military Academy, he entered that institution at a period when it had attained, under Colonel S. Thayer and Major W. J. Worth, the highest state of discipline and efficiency known in its history. From this institution he graduated in June, 1832, at the head of his class in the principal studies, and among the distinguished five,\* in general academic studies. He was invited to return to the Military Academy at the fall academic session of that year, as one of the professors of mathematics, but declined, preferring the duties of a more active life.

Instead of receiving the two months' leave of absence on graduat-

\* By the regulations of the War Department, the names of the first five in each class are printed in the Army Register as a mark of distinction.

ing, he was at once ordered to report for duty to General Scott, who was then in New York organizing an army to proceed against the Indians, who were collected in large numbers in the Northwest, under the celebrated Chief, "Black Hawk." Although not yet commissioned in the army (having only the rank of cadet), he was placed in command of a company of infantry just recruited into the service, and assigned to that portion of the army under General Twiggs. On the way to the frontier the command of General Twiggs was so much reduced in numbers by the Asiatic cholera (the first year that that scourge made its appearance on this continent), that a number of companies were broken up, for the purpose of filling others to the proper complement, and thus the number of officers was in excess of the demand of the service, and Mr. Cass was transferred to the Department of Topographical Engineers. In this department he served six months, and was then transferred to the Department of Military Engineers, in which he remained until October, 1836, when, resigning his position, he received from General Jackson, then President, an appointment as civil engineer on the National Road, in which capacity he continued until the completion of that road, in the States of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and its reception by the governors of those States, respectively. During this service he erected the first cast iron bridge ever built in the United States, over Dunlap's Creek, a tributary of the Monongahela River.

He was an early and persistent advocate of the improvement of the Monongahela River by locks and dams, and by correspondence, essays, newspaper communications, and other active efforts, contributed to the procuring of the charter and organization of a company. As engineer for its improvement he made the survey, and located and superintended the construction of Locks Nos. 3 and 4. After the suspension of the work by the inability of the State of Pennsylvania to pay its appropriation and the sale of the State stock to private parties, he was a member of the board of managers, and was actively instrumental in organizing a company of ample means from



the new shareholders, and the framing of a contract which insured the completion of a work, in 1844, which has been of the highest importance to the manufacturing interest of Pittsburgh.

On the completion of the Monongahela improvement to Brownsville, he organized the first steamboat line on that river, and also the first fast transportation lines across the mountains, by relays of teams, similar to stage lines, thus building up a great carrying trade between the East and West, *via* the Monongahela River and Pittsburgh.

In 1849 he established the Adams Express across the mountains from Baltimore; effected the consolidation of all the Adams Express lines between Boston and St. Louis, and south to Richmond, in 1854, and the year following was elected president of the consolidated company.

In January, 1856, he was elected president of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad Company, then completed to Crestline, and earning about \$1,000,000 a year. At the time, there were three corporations building the three several parts of the line between Pittsburgh and Chicago. The two corporations west of Crestline had exhausted all their resources, and were unable, without assistance, to complete the work they had commenced, and were seeking aid in different quarters to that end. The men of enterprise and wealth at Cleveland, backed by the railroad interest between Cleveland and Buffalo, were about obtaining possession of the road from Crestline to Chicago, which, if effected, would have cut off the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad from Chicago and placed the business interest of Pittsburgh and the Northwest, under the control of Cleveland and Buffalo capital. To that date the only railroad consolidation which had been effected in this country was that of the New York Central, in which instance all the links were completed, in successful working order, and with an entire harmony of interest. Not so here; no similar movement had yet been made, and a large number of the Ohio and Pennsylvania stockholders were very decidedly opposed to any such movement; so much so that at the time the

company was in the greatest need, a large sum of money had to be paid out in the purchase of the interest of recusant stockholders. Notwithstanding the opposition in the board, among the stockholders, and with a portion of the public, the necessary legislation was obtained, and the articles of consolidation signed in less than three months after the plan was conceived. Out of this consolidation—so quickly conceived, so promptly executed, and so persistently persevered in through the greatest of difficulties—has grown one of the most magnificent railroad properties in this country, and which is destined always to be one of the great and controlling arteries of trade and commerce of the western world. The mind revolts at what would have been the most unfortunate position of Pittsburgh if the consolidation had failed, and Cleveland and Buffalo had obtained control of the roads between Crestline and Chicago.

For the past thirteen years General Cass has been the president and ruling genius of this consolidated company (now the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne, and Chicago), with the exception of a short interval, when he voluntarily withdrew. During this interval he was appointed, in 1859, a member of the board of visitors to West Point, and in June, 1870, was one of the most prominent railroad representatives at the reunion of graduates. General Cass's whole life has been one of public usefulness. His entire time and energies have been employed for the benefit of the whole public, and particularly for that of his native State and Pennsylvania, and all his undertakings have been marked with success. He is a strictly business man, practical in conception, and industrious and prompt in execution. In manner he is courteous, with pleasing address and impressive presence. As a railroad manager he has few compeers, the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne, and Chicago being acknowledged one of, if not the best systematized road in the United States. I believe it has thus far, fortunately, been more free from accidents than any other road of the same length in the world. How much this has depended upon the minutiae of system, and the quality and order of the machinery, is hard to determine, but certain it is that execu-

tive ability in the management of railroads has much to do in protecting the public from the wholesale butchery of passengers with which we are so often shocked. The general's undivided attention is given to the interests of the road. He resides on its line some eleven miles below Pittsburgh,—where he has one of the most tastefully arranged places about the city, whose grounds and appointments would themselves form a subject for an interesting descriptive sketch, but would be out of place here,—and comes to the city at nine in the morning, returning home at four in the afternoon, having very little intercourse with the citizens except on business; not however from any want of inclination, but from lack of time. From the time he reaches his office until he leaves it, it is besieged with all classes of people, on all manner of business. He is what would usually be called a popular man, never making an enemy unless in the line of duty; is generous in the distribution of his means (of which he has ample) to charitable purposes, and commands now, and ever has, the respect and confidence of a discriminating public, to a degree accorded to few men in this community.









*Joseph Singerly.*

## JOSEPH SINGERLY.

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SKETCHES of self-made men, though seldom abounding in incidents of a sensational or dramatic character, are still fraught with interest and read with avidity, inasmuch as steady perseverance and untiring energy are qualities indicative of courage and determination, characteristics to which the great public heart always in the right place beats a ready response.

To no man more than to Joseph Singerly, the subject of this sketch, do the qualities which command the world's respect and admiration belong. From the position of a carpenter's apprentice he has, by sheer force of will and untiring effort, made for himself a name among the prominent self-made men of the country. Starting in life without any capital save that of energy and honesty, he has become not only one of Philadelphia's richest men, but also one of the benefactors of his native city.

As his parents were people of small means, and Philadelphia in his youth was without her present Public School system, his education was gained in the evenings at home without the aid of a teacher. By doing overwork he obtained the means of purchasing books, and in this way he not only laid the foundation of a good education in the studies usually pursued in schools, but he also became a good draughtsman and eventually well skilled in architecture.

Being gifted with a comprehensive and assimilating mind he so improved himself by reading and observation, that he has since found himself quite at home and at ease in the company and conversation of the refined and cultivated circle to which his wealth,

benevolence, and noble qualities of head and heart have given him the *entrée*.

Mr. Singerly was born August 1, 1810, in that portion of Philadelphia formerly known as the Northern Liberties. When about seventeen years of age he was indentured to a carpenter whose place of business was on Fourth Street near Buttonwood. His employer was an honest, kind, merry soul, a favorite with every one, and with this good man Joseph Singerly served his apprenticeship and became—what so few young men of the present day can boast of—a thorough and accomplished workman. Having served out his time with honor to himself and profit to his employer, Mr. Singerly soon commenced business on his own account.

In 1840 he removed to Crown Street and Girard Avenue (Kensington). His obliging manners, and promptness in executing orders soon secured for him a good business. Speedily he became largely engaged in extensive operations—large founderies, public halls, water-works, market-houses, and other corporation work for the Districts of Kensington and Richmond,—and fulfilled his contracts so honestly and satisfactorily that other large contracts soon poured in upon him. So surely does prompt recognition of worth and talent and energy follow honest endeavor.

About 1847 he contracted to build the new hall for the District of Richmond, and the next year he erected the market-houses now standing on Girard Avenue, near to Frankford Road, extending westward. About the same time he received the contract for the erection of the Kensington Water-Works on Sixth Street, above York Road, as well as for the Engine Works on the Delaware, above Wood Street Wharf. These works stand as monuments to his good faith and honesty, as well as to his sound judgment and superior workmanship. The first iron building erected in this city, where iron buildings are so abundant, was built by Mr. Singerly at the northeast corner of Third and Dock streets, for the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company. Soon after he erected the brown-stone building at the northwest corner of Fourth and Walnut streets for Charles



Harlan, Esq., a noble structure that reflects credit alike on owner, architect, and builder.

As early as 1851 he had amassed quite a considerable fortune, and purchased and retired to a country seat of ten acres on Harrowgate Lane. He soon discovered, however, that his forte was not that of a private gentleman, and, after a quiet life of some four or five years, he again returned to business.

The first of the passenger railway companies to overcome popular prejudice, clamor, and ignorance, was the Fifth and Sixth streets. This company secured a charter but could not get a contractor bold enough to take charge of the work, until Mr. Singerly, with his energy, courage, and pecuniary resources, came to their aid and undertook to build the road for them. This was in 1857, and the opposition to passenger railways at that time seems to us of this progressive period as absurd and preposterous in the extreme; yet the majority of Philadelphians were violently indignant at the proposed innovation, and curses both loud and deep were poured upon the head of the daring contractor.

Mr. Singerly, notwithstanding threats, and in utter contempt of prophecies that the enterprise would ruin him socially and financially, carried out the enterprise to a successful issue, and demonstrated beyond a doubt to the public mind the practical utility, convenience, and necessity of passenger railways, and by so doing has justly won for himself a large fortune as well as the thanks of his fellow-citizens, whose property he has immensely enhanced in value by the extended facilities which the passenger railways have given to the business interests of the city. He contracted for and built the Market Street Passenger Railway track, and equipped the same; and, having completed this work satisfactorily, he undertook the contract for the Spruce and Pine Street road, laying the track, building the depot, and furnishing cars, horses, harness, etc., and all else required, and then handed the completed work to the company.

In 1859 he secured the charter for the Germantown Pas-

senger Railway, better known as the Fourth and Eighth Street road.

This road extended from Germantown to Dickerson Street a circuit of nineteen miles. It has a capital of five hundred thousand dollars, with bonds issued to the amount of two hundred and fifty thousand. He projected, built, furnished, and put into working order the entire concern out of his own private purse. His obligations at that time were immense, as he had on hand also the contract for building the Chestnut and Walnut Street road. He completed both these enterprises, but a crisis coming on in the financial world he was compelled to make a temporary suspension. He was indebted to the Phoenix Iron Works at this time about sixty thousand dollars. It was demanded by the secretary of the company that he should surrender all his assets. This Mr. Singerly positively declined doing; saying that he would treat all his creditors alike. Very soon after his indomitable energy and courage enabled him to free himself from all indebtedness, he paying dollar for dollar with interest.

In 1865 Mr. Singerly built a palatial mansion and stables of brown stone. This splendid dwelling is located at the northwest corner of Broad and Jefferson streets, and here he lives in the enjoyment of that ease and luxury so honestly earned by a life of industry and integrity.

During the same year, the Girard Avenue Railway was bought and rebuilt by Mr. Singerly, and from being the worst-built and worst-managed concern of the kind in the city, it has become, under the present management and supervision of this Napoleon of contractors, one of the most successful and best paying of our roads. He has merged it into the Germantown Road, which, with this addition, is now twenty-six miles in extent, and its capital increased from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

We suppose Mr. Singerly's railroad enterprises may now be considered completed. That they have contributed largely to the wealth and business importance of Philadelphia, no one will deny;

or that the man who has carried to a successful issue so stupendous a work is deserving the thanks and blessings of his fellow-citizens. Such will be the judgment of all unprejudiced minds.

His next great venture was the purchase of the Abby Turner estate, on the grounds of which Camp Cadwalader was located during the war. It contains one hundred acres and cost \$225,000. This land is now worth \$600,000. On the property he has erected thirty-six first class dwellings, at a cost of \$12,000 each. This is but a commencement of the work Mr. Singerly has in view, as he intends to put improvements on his purchase that will render it treble its present value. There is room on this estate for 2,000 dwellings, and it is located within five minutes' walk of several passenger railways.

Mr. Singerly is a man whose temperament gives evidence of the energy and industry which has always distinguished him. He has a broad, high forehead; fair hair, almost imperceptibly touched with gray; quick, intelligent light, blue eyes, which bespeak his genial and kindly nature, as well as they indicate sincerity and earnestness of purpose. He is firm in his friendships, ever ready to lend a helping hand to those needing his aid and influence, provided always, the parties seeking that aid or influence be industrious, self-helping, and self-respecting. He is not one to sympathize with idleness and inefficiency. To secure his esteem and help, it is necessary to be honest, industrious, and persevering.

Henry Ward Beecher has said "that every man has a garden within himself, but with many it is a poor one." The garden within Mr. Singerly is a rich and well-cultivated spot, where foul or evil weeds find neither root nor mercy, but where all health-giving, pleasant and perfumed flowers flourish in beautiful luxuriance and rich profusion.

All persons of quickly intuitive natures at once recognize the benevolent and sympathetic spirit which illumines the face, and looks out from the kindly eyes of this self-made man. No wail of distress, no moan of agony, ever falls unheeded upon his ears; his

heart is "open as day to melting charity," and it is impossible for him to withstand any appeal to his feelings or to his purse.

Often the victim of impostors, he as often resolves never again to be deceived into any tale of distress however pathetic, but he re-resolves and will die the same warm-hearted, generous, sympathetic man that he has always lived.

Perhaps no one living man more heartily detests cant and hypocrisy than he. He is stern and sharp with those he detects in any act of fraud or deception, and, although genial beyond measure to friends, he is quick and decisive in his dealings with his enemies. He is courted in society for his jovial nature, and his large and varied information has the happy quality of putting at ease all who approach him. Most men who have battled their way from poverty to wealth and social distinction have a brusque or self-asserting manner. There is no trace of this in Mr. Singerly; on the contrary, he is urbane, gentle, and affable in the extreme.

It would scarcely be right to close this sketch without mentioning the fact that Mr. Singerly contemplates a most noble work of benevolence, to which he intends, at no distant date, to give his time, attention, and means; but we are not at liberty to go into particulars regarding it, though we are happy in being able to state that he proposes to bring to the execution of this grand work all his business tact and energy, and will not leave the carrying out of the project to indolent and inefficient executors, who would probably be a score or two of years in completing his designs, and then go directly in opposition to his expressed will in the matter.

We know of no other standard to judge men by, than that given in the Bible, "by their fruits ye shall know them." If this is the test of righteousness, then is Mr. Singerly a righteous man. We know nothing of his particular creed or belief, nor do we care to know them, for religion is more a life than a creed, and "he can't be wrong whose life is in the right."



## GEN. SAMUEL P. HEINTZELMAN.

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SAMUEL P. HEINTZELMAN was born at Manheim, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on the 30th September, 1805. As his name indicates, he is of German descent on the father's side, his ancestors having been among the first settlers of the village of his birth. As a boy he attended the schools of Manheim and Marietta. In 1822, through the influence of James Buchanan, since President, he was appointed a cadet at West Point, where he remained until his graduation in 1826, his rank of scholarship being the seventeenth in a class of forty-two. His first commission was that of brevet second lieutenant in the Third Infantry.

The history of any young officer in the army at that time was a monotony of changes from one frontier post to another. After the usual furlough on leaving West Point, Heintzelman was ordered to Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri, and during the next six or seven years was on garrison duty at that post and at Fort Leavenworth; Fort Mackinac, Michigan; Fort Gratiot, Michigan; and at Fort Brady, Wisconsin, except for the two years from April, 1832, to May, 1834, when he was detached on the important topographical duty of a survey for the improvement of the navigation of the Tennessee River. His full commission as second lieutenant in the Second Infantry bears the same date with that of his brevet on graduation, July 1, 1826, and he was commissioned as first lieutenant, March 4, 1833, which was rather rapid promotion in those days, when our small army was a family in which only as the fathers died out could the youngsters succeed to their shoulder-straps. Ordered to the South, the scene of the Cherokee and Seminole difficulties, Heintzelman saw considerable service in Florida

and Georgia, acting as adjutant to Major Kirby in the expedition to Mosquito Inlet, Florida, where he commanded the artillery of the Steamer Dolphin and covered the landing of the troops. During this period of his schooling in field duty, he served in the quartermaster's department in Florida and at Columbus, Georgia, his executive talent having led to his release from the routine of the line. He was commissioned as captain in the Second Infantry, November 4, 1838, but was retained on staff service as quartermaster and in investigating Florida claims until 1842.

He was ordered to Buffalo in 1843, where he married. In 1845 he commanded Fort Gratiot, Michigan; was thence assigned as district quartermaster at Detroit; and thence sent to Louisville, Kentucky, to organize troops for the Mexican war, and after a short time passed in the recruiting service we find him in 1847-48 in Mexico, engaged in the perilous and vexatious duty of defending convoys from Vera Cruz. The actions in which he was engaged were those of the Paso las Ovejas, against Padre Juarruta, September 12, 1847; at the battle of Huamantla, October 9, 1847, and the action of Atlixco, October 19, 1847. He received his commission as brevet major, with the date October 9, 1847, "for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Huamantla, Mexico."

Returning from the fields of Mexico he was stationed at Fort Hamilton, New York Harbor, but in 1848 was ordered to California in command of troops. The voyage was around Cape Horn in a sailing vessel, thus adding something to an already varied experience. He found himself again on frontier duty on his arrival in California, where he was placed in command of the Southern District and stationed at San Diego. His real station, however, was in the field. In 1850-51 he led an expedition against the Yuma Indians, and established Fort Yuma at the junction of the Gila and Colorado rivers, a most valuable frontier post, although "John Phoenix" found the climate so hot, that he insisted that there was only a piece of brown paper between one's feet and the infernal

regions. From this fort many sallies and scouts were made, and in 1852 a successful and relentless raid against the Yumas terminated hostilities. For his services in that difficult department Heintzelman was brevetted lieutenant-colonel, under date of December 19, 1851. His commission as full major dates March 3, 1855. In 1854 he had been relieved, in accordance with the usual custom, and assigned to recruiting service at Newport Barracks, Kentucky, as respite from the severe duty to which he had been so constantly subjected. But in 1859 he was ordered to Fort Duncan, Texas, from whence he was transferred to Camp Verde. Even in this hopelessly dull region he distinguished himself by an expedition against the Mexican marauder Cortinas, who had selected the wrong side of the Rio Grande for his raids, and sent him back with a loss of several hundreds of men. There were a number of severe combats in which Heintzelman participated, among them one near Fort Brown, December 14, 1859; and another at Ringgold Barracks, December 21. Just after these events came the mutterings of the approaching rebellion. General Twiggs was his superior officer, and, dreading the surrender that was afterward made by Twiggs, Heintzelman procured leave of absence, and came north in January, 1861, just as the war of the rebellion had become inevitable.

Now opened a wider sphere of action. During the twenty-five years that Heintzelman had passed as a soldier, all his achievements and all his earnest toil for the country had been in obscure battles upon distant frontiers, or in the weary routine of an army on a peace footing. He was honored at the War Department, and had a high reputation among soldiers, but it was mostly confined to them. In coming North in the winter of 1860-61, he knew very well that he would never resume his old relations. He abandoned a silver mine in Arizona, known as the Heintzelman Mine, which was just beginning to work successfully under his brother-in-law, S. H. Lathrop, who subsequently entered the Union army, and died of yellow fever in Texas in 1867.

At the North Heintzelman found a high tone of Union feeling,

in which he fully participated. He assisted General Scott in the defense of Washington at the inauguration of Lincoln, was sent to New York, April 8th, as general superintendent of the recruiting service in New York Harbor, but was soon recalled (May 1st), and assigned to duty as Acting Inspector-General of the Department of Washington, where he was commissioned colonel of the Seventeenth Infantry, on May 14th. On the 24th of May he was in immediate command of the first "invasion of Virginia" under General Mansfield, the center crossing the Long Bridge under his direction. Before this, however, that is, on the 17th of May, 1861, Heintzelman was commissioned brigadier-general of volunteers. He opened the actual combats of the war in a skirmish at Fairfax Court-House, July 17, 1861, and led his division in the first battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861, his command winning its share of the scanty laurels of that day, early in which Heintzelman was severely wounded in the fore-arm and elbow. He remained in the saddle while it was dressed, continued in active and heroic command, sullenly retreating at the rear of the rout, and when, on that gloomiest of rainy Mondays, he dismounted at his door in Washington, he had been twenty-seven hours on the back of his horse, wounded, worn, and wet. His wound proved to be so severe as to permanently cripple the right arm. It was not until August 2d that he could be returned to duty, when he was assigned the command of a division holding the left of the defenses of Washington, under McClellan, with his head-quarters at Fort Lyon, near Alexandria, where he remained until the opening of the campaign of 1862 in the succeeding March.

On the organization of the Army of the Potomac, Heintzelman was assigned to the command of the Third Corps, consisting of three divisions, under the command, respectively, of Generals Fitz John Porter, C. S. Hamilton, and Joseph Hooker. Arrived on the peninsula, Porter's division was detached and a new corps organized for him, leaving Heintzelman with about 30,000 men, led by the two most dashing and ambitious generals in the service, Kearny



and Hooker. Heintzelman was first in front of Yorktown, and believed that an immediate attack would carry the place, and with that purpose was pushing on when McClellan's arrival halted him in front of the works. After their evacuation by the Confederates, May 4th, Heintzelman was put in the advance, and on the 5th fought the battle of Williamsburg, the first substantial victory of the war, and the first instance in the Army of the Potomac when entire reliance was placed upon volunteer troops, and that in an all-day fight of the most desperate character. At its close the New Jersey troops used the cartridges of their dead comrades. For his brilliant services on that day Heintzelman was commissioned major-general of volunteers, dating on the day of the battle.

Arrived upon the Chickahominy, the first serious battle was that of Seven Pines, in which Casey's division was driven and badly beaten by surprise on the 31st of May. Heintzelman's corps advanced to his assistance, saved the day, and on Sunday, June 1st, took the offensive in the battle of Fair Oaks. He drove the enemy to within four miles of Richmond, when he reluctantly obeyed an order from General McClellan to fall back. At that time the utmost panic prevailed in Richmond. The policy of delay prevailed until it was too late to strike. Heintzelman was brevetted brigadier-general United States Army for his victory at Fair Oaks, the only *brevet* he received during the war, all his other promotions being full commissions, and there being no vacant full brigadier-ships in the regular army.

Now came the "change of base," or retreat from the Chickahominy to the James. In that momentous seven days, Heintzelman's corps fought with distinguished bravery at the Orchards, June 25th; Savage Station, June 29th; Glendale, June 30th, when the general was contused; at Malvern Hill, July 1st, and in the skirmish at Harrison's Landing, July 2d. This long list of bloody fights was supplemented, in the northern Virginia campaign, by the battle of Manassas, August 29th, and Chantilly, September 1, 1862. At the close of the last battle General Kearny was killed,

and with him the Third Corps lost one of its two heroic generals of division. On the 2d of September the corps camped again at Fort Lyon. The 40,000 men who had left the same place in March were reduced to 6,000, *but the corps had never been beaten in any action.*

From the 9th of September, 1862, to the 13th of October, 1863, General Heintzelman commanded the defenses south of Washington and, until October 13th, the Department of Washington, his troops being known as the Twenty-second Corps. The position was one requiring great executive ability, and was full of harassing cares, not the least being the handling of the vast bodies of recruits and convalescents constantly pouring through the capital, and the weeding out of the great number no longer fit for service. At the same time his lines were constantly annoyed by guerrilla parties, and he was engaged in organizing raids and maintaining communications.

After a period of inaction General Heintzelman was assigned, January 2, 1864, to the command of the Northern Department, consisting of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, with head-quarters at Columbus, Ohio,—another difficult position. During this service he suppressed, by the strong arm, the secret organization known as “The Sons of Liberty,” and in the second great uprising of 1864 aided in organizing, arming, and sending off 40,000 of the militia of Ohio in the space of two weeks, the other States doing almost as well. On the 1st of October Heintzelman was relieved, and during the remainder of the war was waiting orders, or on court-martial duty. At the close of the war the Major Heintzelman of 1861 held the following living commissions, viz.: Colonel of the Seventeenth Infantry, United States Army; Major-General of United States Volunteers, and Brevet Major-General United States Army, the latter dating March 13, 1865, “for gallant and meritorious conduct at Williamsburg, May 5, 1862.”

He was mustered out of the volunteer service August 24, 1865, resumed command of his regiment at Hart's Island, New York

Harbor, September 29th, remaining there until April, 1866, when with his regiment he was ordered to Texas, where he took command of the central district, with head-quarters at San Antonio, and subsequently commanded the district of Texas entirely. Came North in May, 1867, he was alternately on leave of absence or serving on examination or retiring boards until February 22, 1869, when he was retired with the rank of colonel for length of service, having then been an active officer in the army no less than forty-three years, or adding his cadetship forty-seven years.

The retired rank assigned him was in accordance with the regulations of the service, but there was a universal feeling that it was injustice, or at least an insufficient recognition of merit, and Congress—an act without precedent in army annals—passed a joint resolution retiring Samuel P. Heintzelman with the full rank of Major-General, United States Army, for wounds received at First Bull Run, 1862. This, with a mention of resolutions once tendered him by the Legislature of Pennsylvania for distinguished services in the Mexican war, completes his military record, save that he retains his old associations as a member of the military order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, of the Society of the Third Corps, and of the Army of the Potomac.

Such is the record of a long life devoted to country. It includes a weary period of slow promotion in times of comparative peace, supplemented by rapid successes when the opportunity of a great war came. It was only in active campaign, in stern, hard fighting, that Heintzelman achieved triumphs. He was no holiday soldier, but though he was sometimes nicknamed “gray and grim”—all good generals have a sobriquet—he had a peculiar faculty of winning without courting the affections of those who served upon his staff. Without the slightest sycophancy to superiors, or ostentatious condescension to inferiors, he held the confidence of one and the love of the other. He never shirked a hardship himself, and never inflicted one, except when the exigencies of the service demanded it. Happy in his refined social and domestic relations, his moral

influence was always pure, as his charity for the faults of others was broad. Impatient in inaction, hot and impetuous when the fight was on, yet never reckless or careless of the lives of his men, he had at once the coolness, the determined bravery, the unselfishness, and the *esprit* that make the true soldier, and his career must be regarded as one of the most distinguished and successful in the Army of the Union. Let his record speak. Eulogy is idle.








*James C. Spencer.*

## JUDGE JAMES C. SPENCER.

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UDGE SPENCER, the subject of this sketch, is a native of the village of Fort Covington, County of Franklin, State of New York. His father, the late Judge James B. Spencer, was one of the early settlers of Franklin County, and was a prominent and respected citizen and recognized political leader in the northern part of the State, having held many important positions, including that of judge, and representative in the State and National Legislatures. He also distinguished himself in the war of 1812, with Great Britain, participating actively in all the important engagements of that contest that occurred on the northern frontier, including the battle of Plattsburgh. In politics, he was a Democrat of the Jefferson, Madison, and Jackson school.

He was the personal friend and colleague of Silas Wright, and was recognized and appreciated by that great and upright man, eminent statesman, and sagacious leader, and by other prominent Democrats of the State of New York, as an intelligent, prudent, and reliable political coadjutor, in the struggles of more than a quarter of a century to secure and perpetuate Democratic ascendancy in the State. He also enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all his fellow-citizens who knew him, without regard to political differences. He died in the year 1848, at the age of 68.

This branch of the Spencer family, and that represented by the late Chief-Justice Ambrose Spencer, and his son Hon. John C. Spencer, were kindred, and claimed a common ancestry. The family emigrated to New York from Connecticut, but their original

settlement in the New World was in Rhode Island, springing from an English ancestor who settled in that colony at an early day. The family of the present Judge Spencer, who is the subject of this sketch, were, on the maternal side, purely Irish. His grandfather emigrated to this country from Ireland prior to the American Revolution, and served his adopted country, as a soldier, during the War of Independence.

Judge S., before he had fully attained manhood, was thrown upon his own resources, and acquired his education and profession mainly by his own exertions. He commenced the practice of law in 1850, in his native county, and soon became popular and respected in his profession.

In 1854 he removed to Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, and with Judge William C. Brown formed the legal firm of Brown & Spencer, which for many years enjoyed a successful and profitable practice in the courts of northern New York. In 1857 he was appointed United States District Attorney for the northern district of New York.

The performance of the duties of that office extended his professional acquaintance into nearly every county of the State. After the expiration of his term of office he removed to the city of New York, and entered upon the practice of his profession in that city. His energy and industry, added to his former professional reputation in the State, soon brought him clients and a successful business. In 1867 he entered into partnership with Hon. Charles A. Rapallo and other legal gentlemen, under the firm name of Rapallo & Spencer, which became familiar to the public, and in the courts, as associated with some of the most important causes of the day, including the famous Erie controversy, and other equally important litigations connected with railroad and steamship companies. The existence of that firm terminated with the election of its senior members to the Bench—Mr. Rapallo to the Court of Appeals, and Mr. Spencer to the Superior Court of New York. The professional career of Judge Spencer in the State, before he sought a practice in



New York City, was a successful and honorable one, and highly illustrative of what integrity of character, united with energy and industry, and a fair amount of ability, will always accomplish for its possessor. The nomination and election of Judge Spencer to the Bench of the Superior Court was gratifying to his numerous friends in the city and State. In northern, western, and central New York, the scene of his former professional labors, the press and the prominent members of the bench and bar, without regard to political differences, spoke of the event with approbation, and commended the action of the leaders of the City Democracy, in securing his nomination and election, as a just and wise recognition of personal and professional merit, and a rare and fortunate selection of a gentleman so eminently qualified for the position.

He was elected to the Superior Court Bench by a vote of 81,521, and a majority vote of 51,079.

Judge Spencer is still a young man, quite young for one assuming the duties and responsibilities which were formerly discharged by judges so eminent for their learning and wisdom as Oakley, Jones, Hoffman, Duer, Robertson, and others, who occupied the Bench of the Superior Court in the maturity of their years, and the perfection of their experience and abilities.

But he takes with him to his new position his energetic and industrious habits, and these, united with his characteristic urbanity and courtesy, his admitted integrity, and a patient performance of duty, will in time win him the reputation of serving the public well, and will make him deserving of the continued confidence and esteem, which he has so soon won, of his judicial brethren, as also of the members of the bar doing business before him and the suitors whom they represent. It is predicted by those whose opinions are entitled to the highest consideration, that he has before him a bright and honorable future as a judge, should he, by continuance on the Bench, enjoy the opportunity of acquiring that discipline and experience without which no man, whatever his natural abilities and

theoretic knowledge, can be fitted for a prompt, decided, and intelligent performance of judicial duties.

These qualities he already displays to a degree which gives assurance of a rapid adaptation to the highest demands and noblest aims of his position.





Yours Truly

J. S. J. Stanham



## J. S. T. STRANAHAN.

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IN selecting as a man of progress the Hon. J. S. T. Stranahan, an analytical view of the elements of his character not only justifies that selection, but gives a comprehensive grasp of that character and forms a key to his history. His is not the character of the man who has progressed to the power only of the capitalist by the accumulation of mites, so often held up as a worthy example to youth. This is exemplified so early in his history that it is evident that it is inherent in his nature and not the result of a larger dealing in later life. Left at the age of eight years with a patrimony of a few hundred dollars, he subsequently waived all right to this in favor of the education of his sister, trusting to his own abilities to make his own way.

With a view of life and life's affairs of a large and comprehensive scope, he is eminently a dealer in large things. Adding to this a quick perception amounting almost to intuition, that "golden grasp," of things as they are, in unclothed, uncolored reality, and a conviction that successful action must be in accordance with the proverbial stubbornness of facts, the incidental and inconsequent sink in his estimation into their proper relation to the more important, and make him necessarily the man of truth or reality and hence reliability. He might be true from principle, he might be true from taste; he *must* be, from the construction of his mind; and it is interesting to see this characteristic cropping out in all his traits and even *making* the events of his life. Faith in the result of a given line of action, and a patient waiting therefor, is one of its outcroppings. It gives him great executive ability and, by enabling him to skillfully retouch the point at issue, freed from

the prejudices of differing parties, a conciliatory power arises from it united with a lack of personal feeling. Said an eminent judge, "Mr. Stranahan does not know the meaning of the word selfishness as applied to his own practice." It secures success to his undertakings. "You are always successful, Stranahan!" broke forth a prominent citizen of Brooklyn to him upon the successful issue of one of his public measures, strongly opposed by a local interest. But he has been successful only when upon close scrutiny the verdict would be that any man would be successful under the same circumstances, viz., with all the honorable elements of success upon his side. But there lies his power, in the perception of those circumstances and disposition to place himself under them. "Honorable," said an eminent divine of him in conversation with the writer a short time since, "I have known him for twenty-five years, and I think it a moral impossibility for James S. T. Stranahan to do a dishonorable thing."

Thus though he has been in political life, and therefore of a party, Mr. Stranahan could never be a partisan. This has given him, a Republican, the confidence, to some extent, of the party opposed in politics. Hence when the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused the North in 1854 he, though a Republican, was sent to Congress from a Democratic district.

Such is he of whom we caught a glimpse in his boyhood giving his patrimony to his sister. That boyhood was passed on the hills of Peterboro' in central New York, whither his father had emigrated from Connecticut which had been the home of his ancestors for several generations. There, in the wholesome influence of the home of the farmer and thrifty owner of mills of various kinds, he passed his youth from the time of his birth, April 25, 1808, to the death of his father in 1816. His widowed mother soon married again and, alternating his winters and summers in attending school and aiding his step-father in the operations of farming and stock raising, he passed the time until, at the age of seventeen, he assumed the responsibility of his own sup-

port. Further education in the academies of the country, to which was added the discipline of one season of teaching, fitted him for the duties of civil engineer. But abandoning this in a larger view of opening trade with the Indians, he visited in 1827-8 the region of the Upper Lakes. But after several interviews with General Lewis Cass, then Governor of the Territory of Michigan, and several journeys of exploration in the then Western wilderness, he abandoned the project and formed a partnership with some gentlemen of Albany for dealing in wool. In 1832, however, Gerrit Smith, a prominent capitalist as well as philanthropist, who had known him from his earliest years, induced him to found a manufacturing village in a township owned by him in Oneida County. *To build a town* was a work that gave full scope to Mr. Stranahan's powers, which had had as yet, however, the development of only twenty-four years' experience. But he made it a success, so that the town (Florence) increased from a population of a few hundreds to that of two or three thousand. From Florence he was sent to the Assembly in 1838, elected on the Whig ticket from a Democratic county, and, though comparatively young, he was judged a fitting compeer for the men of ability, an unusual number of whom were gathered in that Assembly, owing to the political struggle connected with the suspension of specie payments and the agitation of the Sub-Treasury Act urged upon Congress by the then President, Martin Van Buren.

In 1840 he removed to Newark, N. J., and became largely interested in the construction of railroads. He was among the first who, by taking stock in payment for construction, became owners and hence controllers of the roads they built.

In 1848 Mr. Stranahan was elected Alderman of Brooklyn, to which city he had removed in 1844; was nominated, but defeated in the election for Mayor in 1851; in 1854 was sent to Congress. As a legislator for the city Mr. Stranahan ever had a careful regard for the great public and private interests intrusted to his care, and in Congress he was laborious and faithful to the country at large,

maica, affording miles of boulevards two hundred and ten feet in width.

Criticism that would be adverse to him testifies unwittingly to his merit. Said a daily paper opposing him, "Mr. Stranahan is the Baron Haussman of Brooklyn," and again, speaking of that renovator of the old-time city, "Baron Haussman is the Stranahan of Paris." Said Mayor Kalbfleisch, in an opposing speech, "This increased taxation, etc., I attribute to the Park Commission, and by Park Commission I mean James S. T. Stranahan, for *he* is the Park Commission." Perhaps Mr. Stranahan's influence, through the confidence felt in his judgment and integrity, is by nothing better illustrated than by the fact that, for six years of his administration of Park affairs, he has been bitterly opposed by the mayor, the head of the dominant political party, and while his management has thus been impeded by every obstacle possible to the man and the office, the Democratic party of Brooklyn have rendered him efficient aid, and enabled him, through their political power, to secure results without which the park must have proved a failure.

The Atlantic Docks are the most extensive and most perfect work of their kind on the continent. They consist of a basin, comprising forty acres of water surface, surrounded by warehouses, of a mile in extent, the finest of this or any country. The Atlantic Basin besides having a large general business is the largest grain depot in the world, sometimes having a storage of twelve millions of bushels. The construction and success of these docks is due to Mr. Stranahan's efforts, he being not only president of the company but principal stockholder and manager of its affairs. The magnitude of this enterprise will be understood from the facts, that it was necessary, for the admission of ships, to remove by dredging from the entire surface of the basin, earth to the depth of fifteen feet; and, after the docks were located, in order to connect them with the then shore line, the projectors were obliged to *create* two hundred acres of land by reclaiming it from the ocean. This now forms a portion of the Sixth and Twelfth wards of Brooklyn, is



nearly covered with brick buildings, many of them large manufactories, and contains a busy population of not less than ten thousand souls.

Mr. Stranahan has in daily life a genial appreciation of others, a sympathetic manner, and a keen sense of humor. He has a wit based in his clear picturing of thought, which enables him easily to shift some feature of it and turn the whole into comedy, or, when not humorous, to make his conversation striking and picturesque. It has been said of him by a previous writer: "Looking at his face you see that he is a man having a clear far-reaching intellect, and, viewing his work, you become aware that he has not less resources of energy. A wise legislator, a promoter of great public works, a comprehensive man of business, a philanthropist and a Christian, he has in each of these stations done an able part, which will adorn coming history as well as the record of his own times."







Henry Farnham.



## HENRY FARNAM.



HENRY FARNAM, Esq., was born Nov. 9, 1803, in Scipio, Cayuga County, New York. His father, Jeffrey Amherst Farnam, was born in Killingly, Conn., and his mother, Mercy Tracy, in Norwich of the same State. The parents of his father and mother emigrated to Orange County, N. Y., when the latter were children. The parents of his father died in Orange County, while those of his mother removed to Cayuga County, where they died. His father went to Scipio, when about twenty-one years old, immediately after his marriage, and settled upon an uncleared farm. He had eleven children, of whom Henry was the sixth. He died in Nov., 1842. The mother still survives, with her powers unimpaired, at the age of 95, almost as fresh and active as in her youth, the object of the pride and affection of her numerous descendants.

Mr. Farnam spent his childhood and early youth in laboring upon his father's farm in the summer, and attending upon the public schools for the few months of every year in which they were provided. Though strong for labor, and attaining a manly growth at an unusually early period, he was especially interested in books and study, and easily mastered the branches of learning which were pursued at the common schools. The few books of history and literature, which were to be found in the log-houses and the little library of the neighborhood, were read and re-read with the greatest avidity, and the contents of some of them could be repeated by heart. He delighted especially in the mathematics, and whenever he found that any person within his reach knew more than himself, he resorted to him to be taught at the cost of any inconvenience or self-denial. In this way he had learned the ele-

ments of Trigonometry and Surveying before he was 16; and the elements of Algebra without a text book. He was not a little indebted for stimulus and direction to Mr. Davis Hurd, then a town surveyor, of whose family he was a member for many months when at the age of 14, and with whom he was afterwards very intimately associated. His zeal for knowledge and his special aptitude for the mathematics brought him not long after into friendly relations with the well-known and greatly esteemed David Thomas, then the county surveyor, whom he never ceased to honor, as the trusted friend of his youth, and as satisfactorily exemplifying his ideal of a plain, upright and Christian manhood. Mr. Thomas belonged to the Society of Friends, and, with many of his neighbors of the same faith, exerted no inconsiderable influence in quickening the intellect and in forming the elevated practical aims of his youthful favorite.

In 1819, the lines for the Erie canal west of Rochester had been imperfectly surveyed. In 1820, they were run more carefully by Mr. Thomas, and in 1821, were finally established by him. In the spring of that year, Mr. Farnam went into the field under Mr. Thomas, first as "rod-man," there being no other place vacant. After three months he became assistant Engineer, with and under his friend Mr. Davis Hurd, and served till the winter set in, when he taught school. In the following spring, 1822, he resumed his post in the field. In 1823, he superintended the location and construction of a canal connecting the Tonawanda and Oak-Orchard Creeks. He continued his services till the Erie canal was finished in the fall of 1824, and taught school again in the winter.

In the spring of 1825, arrangements were made by the Farmington Canal Company for the construction of a canal from New Haven, Conn., to Northampton, Mass., and Mr. Farnam was persuaded to serve under his old friend and principal, Mr. Hurd, in the capacity of assistant Engineer. He retained this situation till 1827, when Mr. Hurd resigned, and Mr. Farnam took his place as Engineer and Superintendent, and subsequently finished the canal from the State line to Northampton. His connection with this en-

terprise brought him into the most intimate relations of friendship and confidence with the distinguished President of the Company, Hon. James Hillhouse, whose Spartan simplicity, sturdy honesty, sanguine enterprise and untiring industry, combined with childlike ingenuousness and warm affections, won his admiration and confidence. Though himself young, he soon became to Mr. Hillhouse the strong staff on which he leaned and trusted in many dark and trying hours. Mr. Hillhouse died in 1832, and in 1836, a new company was organized, called the New Haven and Northampton Company, which eventually held the ownership of the canal. Of the stock of this company, Mr. Joseph E. Sheffield, (who had settled in New Haven in 1836 with a considerable fortune acquired by skillful management at Mobile), became, in 1840, first, a very large proprietor, and afterward, almost the sole owner. The canal was maintained under Mr. Farnam's management and direction, and he was brought into the most intimate relations with Mr. Sheffield, which led to mutual esteem, and to lasting relations of cordial and faithful friendship. They were well fitted to act together, in the bold and sagacious plans by which they acquired wealth, as they afterward harmonized so completely in the noble liberality by which they bestowed so much of what they acquired.

Mr. Farnam was married Dec. 1, 1839, to Miss Ann S. Whitman of Farmington, Conn., and immediately established his residence at New Haven, where he remained till he removed to Chicago. They have had five children, four sons and one daughter, all of whom are living.

In 1846, in view of the changed conditions of traffic, occasioned by the general introduction of Railways, it was decided to substitute a Railway for the Farmington Canal, and in 1848 "the Canal Railway" was completed to Plainville, Conn. It was subsequently extended to Williamsburg, Mass., and to New Hartford, Conn. In 1850, this Railway was leased to the New York and New Haven Railway Company, and Mr. Farnam resigned the office which he had held from the first, as Engineer and Superintendent.

In the autumn of the same year, 1850, he was invited to Chicago, Illinois, by William B. Ogden, Esq., then President of the Galena and Chicago Union Railway, that after examining the resources of the country along its route, he might be induced to bring his engineering skill as well as his influence with eastern capitalists to the service and advancement of the Railway interest in the great Northwest. This interest was at that time in its infancy, and was laboring under very serious embarrassments. The only Railway beyond Chicago, operated with locomotive power, was the "Galena and Chicago Union," then finished as far as Elgin, 42 miles in all. The Michigan Central Railway had been finished from Detroit to New Buffalo, where it terminated; sending its passengers and freight to Chicago, by Lake Michigan—a route that was uncertain and treacherous. The Michigan Southern Railway, starting from Lake Erie at Toledo, Ohio, and Monroe, Michigan, by two branches, which united at Adrian, was imperfectly finished to Hillsdale, Mich. Chicago had some 28,000 inhabitants. Its favorable position had long been recognized, and the splendid resources of its vast prairies in every direction were beginning to be appreciated by all the residents of the west, and by occasional visitors from the east. What was imperatively needed was perfected railway connections with Lake Erie and the East, which would facilitate the ready access of emigrants, and the extension of radiating lines of railways in every direction westward, to distribute the incoming emigrants over these immense tracts of fertile soil, and bring eastward the products which their labor was certain to create. What stood in the way, was ignorance of these resources, or a want of confidence in the possibility of speedily furnishing these facilities, or a reluctance on the part of Eastern capitalists to entrust the means which might be required, to individuals and companies of whose competence they had no experience, and in whose integrity they had less confidence. To meet these conditions, Mr. Farnam and Mr. Sheffield brought every requisite. They were known at the East as possessing skill and enterprise, pecuniary ability and integrity, and they had



proved their capacity for prompt and independent action in railway construction, by an experiment which had made them favorably known in the best circles in Wall Street.

Mr. Farnam was favorably impressed by his first visit, and still later in the autumn of 1850, at the pressing instance of citizens of Rock Island, Ill., and Davenport, Iowa, he and Mr. Sheffield, were induced to examine the route from Chicago to Rock Island, with a view to their undertaking the construction of a railway, which should connect Chicago with the Mississippi; following in part the course of the Illinois Canal and River. They were so favorably impressed as to agree to construct the whole, and to furnish the capital, provided a favorable charter could be obtained. While this was pending, Mr. Farnam was solicited by John B. Jervis, the chief engineer of the Michigan Southern Railway, to superintend the running of the portion of the road so far as it was finished. To this he replied, that he should prefer to contract for its completion, within a year, and would pledge himself to do this, and to furnish the capital on certain conditions. The proposal was listened to with some incredulity, but was soon accepted, and the pledge was redeemed. In Feb., 1852, a connection by railway had been partially effected between Chicago and Lake Erie, the Michigan Central Railway had been excited to avail itself of the two dormant charters of two projected railways, and in May, 1852, before the year was finished, trains upon both these Railways entered Chicago. For the prosperity of this city, this event was a new starting point. Real estate at once rose greatly in value, and the city began rapidly to increase in business and in population. In June, 1852, a few gentlemen from New York were invited to avail themselves of the newly established railway connections, for a visit to Chicago, and were startled by the observation from Mr. Farnam, that in two years he hoped to take them by rail to the Mississippi. This promise was more than redeemed. In Feb., 1854, the Chicago and Rock Island Railway was completed, and in June, of the same year, a party of 1000 invited guests

were taken by Messrs. Farnam and Sheffield, not only to the Mississippi, but some 400 miles up the Mississippi, to St. Paul, Minn. This excursion attracted the attention of the whole country at the time, and has never been equalled in the liberal scale on which it was projected, or the satisfactory completeness with which it was achieved. No sooner had this railway been completed, than Mr. Farnam gave his energy and attention to the construction of a Railway bridge across the Mississippi. In 1855, the bridge at Rock Island was completed, and the "father of waters" was made aware of the presence and triumph of its rival; the unbroken chain of Railways which has since been carried across the Missouri, and over the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific.

In 1853, the Mississippi and Missouri Railway Co. was organized, and in 1854, Mr. Farnam and new associates contracted for the construction of a Railway across the State of Iowa, from Davenport to Council Bluffs. It was completed as far as Iowa City, in 1856, as also a branch to Washington, via Muscatine. Mr. Farnam was elected President of the Rock Island Co. in 1854, and held the office till 1863, when he resigned all active connection with railway construction and management. His resignation was accepted with the most flattering and cordial testimonials on the part of the Directors. Previous to this, in 1860, he had released to his associates in the contract with the Mississippi and Missouri Co., all the responsibilities and expected profits of the undertaking. Early in 1862, the Union Pacific Railway Company was organized. Mr. Farnam took part in the organization, and was invited to take a prominent share in its management. For reasons most honorable to himself, he declined these proffers, and adhered to the resolution which he had been slowly forming, to withdraw from active business of every kind, and to seek rest and refreshment, by a residence in Europe with his family. In August, 1863, he sailed for Europe. He returned to witness the triumphant close of that struggle for national existence and unity, in which he had taken the liveliest and the most passionate interest,

and, after crossing and recrossing the ocean twice afterward, he fixed his residence in New Haven, in 1868, where he finds "troops of friends," both old and new.

Mr. Farnam has been distinguished from the first, by a wise, but open handed liberality. When his means were limited, he was a generous giver to private and public objects. In proportion to their increase, he has multiplied and enlarged his benefactions. To public objects, without number, as school houses and churches, literary and religious institutions of every grade, he has been a willing and a liberal benefactor. In 1863, he gave \$30,000 to Yale College, to be expended for the erection of an improved dormitory, the first of the kind in this country, that was both projected and provided for. To this sum, he added \$30,000 more, and in 1870, the building, which bears his name, was completed and occupied. Scores and hundreds of his acquaintances and friends, from the lowliest to the better known, can testify to his thoughtful and warm-hearted generosity. A very large number of persons, who have been in his employment, have been put in the way of advancement to the highest posts in railway construction and management, and not a few have been directly and indirectly, helped by him to affluence. Not a few could testify to his kind interposition in the hour of pecuniary embarrassment and threatened calamity. His familiarity with the ways of stock-manipulators, financiers and contractors, has contributed to intensify his abhorrence of all dishonest and dishonorable devices, and to increase the sensitiveness of his own personal integrity. Were all "Men of Progress" like him, the politics, and the finances of the country would be free from the reproaches with which both are so heavily burdened. The example which he has given of gentle kindness, of self-sacrificing sympathy, of stern integrity, and of warm-hearted interest in all that promotes man's welfare for the present life and the future, is valued most highly by those of his friends who have known him the longest, and in circumstances that try men severely. The writer of this sketch, has had ample opportunities to know him well for

many years, and if he writes with the warmth of a personal friend, he also writes from that full and certain knowledge, which only a long and intimate friendship can render possible.

*Yale College, Nov., 1870.*

**P**



## ERASTUS CORNING.



VER since the earliest days of civilization, the men through whose instrumentality the commodities of different countries were interchanged, the merchants as contra-distinguished from Traders and shopkeepers, have constituted an important and influential class in all well ordered communities. In Venice, when a great commercial power, they were the aristocracy of the state. The term, "merchant Princes," now so flippantly used by persons ignorant of its real significance, had its origin in Venice, and it described precisely the rank and social position of those to whom it was applied. Coming down to a later period, the great merchants of London and Glasgow have held a position second only to those of noble lineage and ancestral estates. The merchants of Holland, among the most intelligent, successful and opulent that the world has ever seen, although not recognized on terms of social equality by the aristocracy of the Hague, the proudest, most polished and elegant people in Europe, have a powerful influence in the affairs of that comfortable little kingdom, and compose a society as accomplished, well educated, and delightful as can be found on the Continent. The pursuits of the merchant have a liberalizing tendency and promote an advanced civilization. His intercourse and correspondence extend to every quarter of the globe and bring him into communion with the best minds of his time. He takes cognizance of topics that address themselves to the consideration of statesmen, and aids in the settlement of questions that have perplexed the most enlightened governments. Some of the wisest legislators that have sat in the British Parliament and in our own Congress were devoted in their earlier days to commerce; and England

owes her dominion and power in the east in large measure to the sagacity, wisdom, and firmness of those whom the India merchants sent to prosecute their enterprises of conquest and business on the Ganges and the plains of Hindostan. Many of the most brilliant of the civilians and commanders who administered the affairs and governed the vast possessions of the East India Company, received a mercantile education and began their career in the counting-room.

But why multiply instances to prove, what is evident to every intelligent observer, that the great interests of the world have been largely indebted to the merchant, and that his faculties, sharpened and elevated by an extended commercial intercourse, have been effective in developing material resources, promoting the general good and advancing a high civilization.

Erastus Corning has been a merchant, in the widest and best sense of that word. But unlike the merchant princes to whom we have alluded, his theatre of action has been the land instead of the ocean. He has had little to do with maritime commerce; much, very much, with developing the resources of his own country, particularly of the State of New York and the great Northwest. He lived in Albany before an iron rail was laid west of the Hudson River. He has been familiar with every project of public importance relating to the commerce between the seaboard and the West. With respect to the trunk lines of railway running through Central New York, and thence through Canada, Michigan, Illinois, &c., to the Missouri River, Mr. Corning's influence, his efforts and his money have nerved the exertions of the most advanced of the parties who have explored or surveyed these routes. His money is to-day contributing to railroad enterprises west of the Missouri, and the various branch lines extending north and south on the eastern and western sides of that river.

He began life without extraordinary advantages, and his prosperous career and vast wealth have been achieved by his own unaided exertions. His chief inheritance was a vigorous con-

stitution, an indomitable will, fine moral sense, equable temper, patient, industrious disposition, and a heart full of benevolence and kindly feeling. He has been a strict temperance man, while he has never been intolerant in regard to moderate indulgence in others. With these attributes it is not surprising that, having lived more than three score years and ten, he should be enjoying excellent health in a green old age, with his mental powers in unimpaired activity, supervising his diversified interests, and investing the surplus accumulations of his immense estate. He has been a resident of Albany for more than half a century, where he has always had the respect and esteem of the people, as is evidenced by the fact that he has been invited to accept every position of trust and responsibility which they had to bestow. He lives there unostentatiously, in quiet elegance, surrounded by his relations and friends, dispensing a liberal hospitality, and responding to every call of charity and philanthropy.

Erastus Corning was born in Norwich, Connecticut, on the 14th of December, 1794. He is of English extraction, his ancestors having emigrated to this country in the early part of the last century. His father, Bliss Corning, served through the latter part of the Revolution, and received a pension up to the time of his death. His maternal grandfather, with two of his mother's brothers also fought in several campaigns during the same great struggle. His mother's maiden name was Smith, and the family resided at Preston, on the opposite side of the river from Norwich, until her marriage with his father, when they all came to Norwich.

Bliss Corning removed with his family to Chatham, Columbia County, New York, in 1807. Erastus Corning was then a lad of thirteen. He had received no other educational facilities than such as were afforded by the common schools of the country. His last teacher in the District school at Norwich, was Pelatiah Perit, a partner in the house of Goodhue & Co., New York, and at the time of his death, which occurred a few years since, President

of the Chamber of Commerce. When his father removed to Chatham, Erastus went to Troy as a clerk in the hardware store of Hart & Smith, his uncle Benjamin Smith being one of the partners. He remained with Hart & Smith until the war broke out in 1812. Hart & Smith then dissolved and divided the goods of the firm. Young Corning went back to Mr. Hart and remained with him until the first of March, 1814. On the 12th of that month he came to Albany and entered the iron and hardware store of John Spencer & Co., where he remained as clerk for two years, when he became a partner in the firm. Mr. Spencer died in 1824, and Mr. Corning continued the business for a time on his own account.

In all these years, from the time he left school at Norwich in 1807, Erastus Corning employed his spare time in reading, improving his mind, and gaining such knowledge as he might make available in the great enterprises which he subsequently prosecuted. He has always been reticent and self contained to an uncommon degree, without a particle of egotism, and the writer has found it a work of great difficulty to gather the information touching his habits and mode of life requisite even for the brief and imperfect memoir, which is all he has proposed to prepare. Mr. Corning is not an unsocial man, nor has he any affectation of concealment or reserve. On the contrary, he is eminently fitted for the enjoyments of domestic life, with a keen sense of humor and a quiet relish for the ludicrous, which exhibits itself in terse and epigrammatic methods of expression oftentimes exceedingly telling and impressive. He is modest and retiring in manner, with a feminine sensibility and delicacy of feeling. Ostentation and display are repugnant to him. In deliberative assemblies he speaks rarely, but his words are well chosen, and his ideas and suggestions, always replete with wisdom and good sense, are conveyed with distinctness and perspicuity.

Mr. Corning was interested in the iron and hardware business, at Albany, for half a century, having during that period several



partners. Among them were John T. Norton, who remained in the firm four years; James Horner, Gilbert C. Davidson, John F. Winslow, and Erastus Corning, Jr., who is still in the business. Corning & Norton purchased the rolling mill at Troy, known as the Albany iron works at Troy, which are still owned by Mr. Corning and his son. The transactions of the firm of Erastus Corning & Co. were the most extensive of any iron house in the country. The details of the business were performed by his partners and clerk, Mr. Corning exercising only a supervising control, being engaged in many important enterprises in different parts of the country. In the early days of railroads he embarked largely in their construction and management, and at the present time he is a stockholder and Director in several of the leading lines of the country. He was one of the projectors of the Mohawk and Hudson road, which was completed in 1833. He was one of the Commissioners for organizing the Utica and Schenectady Road, which was finished in 1836, and was President of the Company from the outset until the consolidation in 1854.

The course of Mr. Corning in procuring the consolidation of the roads between Albany and Buffalo, has been made the subject of much criticism and misrepresentation. The cry of monopoly, always a popular one with demagogues, was raised against him, and there was a great deal of senseless clamor on the subject. Consolidation was a matter of necessity. When the Erie Railroad was completed to Lake Erie, and the Pennsylvania Central had finished its track, it was apparent that the several companies which now compose the New York Central could not successfully compete with those great lines unless they were consolidated and operated by one controlling mind. Here were seven distinct corporations, each one managed independently of all the others, while the rival roads were controlled by a single Board of Directors. A simple statement of the circumstances is sufficient to vindicate the course of Mr. Corning; the result, furnishing an unanswerable reply to the foolish accusations of the opponents of consolidation. Mr.

Corning remained President of the Central until 1865, when he resigned the office.

Some fifteen years ago, a project was conceived of constructing a canal around the fall of the River St. Mary, to connect the waters of Lake Superior with the great chain of Lakes terminating with Ontario. It was called the Ste. Marie Ship Canal. The State of Michigan obtained a concession of 750,000 acres of the public lands in aid of the enterprise. Commissioners were appointed, of which Gen. Cass was one, who advertised for proposals for the construction of the canal. A company was organized, of which Mr. Corning was President, to whom the contract was awarded. Mr. J. W. Brooks, then superintendent of the Michigan Central Railroad, and one of the ablest and most enlightened railroad men in the country, was associated with Mr. Corning in the undertaking. The work was prosecuted with a degree of intelligence and energy that insured its completion at an early day. It was an important auxiliary to the commerce of the lakes, and the rapid development of the large resources of the Lake Superior country is to be chiefly ascribed to the facilities afforded by this Canal.

The early completion of the Michigan Central Railroad, one of the most important links in the great line of railways that connect the Atlantic with the Pacific, was mainly achieved by means of the ample resources and farsighted penetration of Mr. Corning. The State of Michigan had undertaken the work, but it was languishing for want of means. The track had been completed as far as Kalamazoo; when the enterprise was brought to a stand. Mr. Corning, in connexion with Mr. D. D. Williamson, of the Farmer's Trust and Loan Company, and Mr. J. W. Brooks, took a transfer of the road, which they completed through to Lake Michigan without any unnecessary delay. Mr. Corning has been a large stockholder, and one of the Directors of the Company up to the present time. He was one of the originators of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, of which he has always

been a Director. He has been connected with many other railroad enterprises in the west, but it is unnecessary to go into further details on this subject.

For a period of more than forty years, offices of distinction and responsibility, municipal, state and national, were constantly offered for the acceptance of Mr. Corning. In many instances he declined these evidence of confidences and respect, while others which he had received with reluctance, he was constrained to resign by stress of private affairs. He was elected an Alderman of the city of Albany, in 1828, and served four consecutive terms. He was then chosen Mayor, by the Common Council, and subsequently was re-elected for four successive years. The last time, the whigs having obtained control of the Council, he resigned the office. He was elected a member of the State Senate, in 1841, and was in that body when the Legislature adopted a resolution for a convention to form a new constitution. He opposed the measure, foreseeing then, what is patent to everybody now, that the new constitution which was to supersede the organic law of 1821, would be an innovation rather than an improvement. In 1833, Mr. Corning was elected one of the Regents of the University, and at the present time is Vice-Chancellor of the Board of Regents.

He was chosen a representative in the 35th Congress, and also in the 37th and 38th. During the first term he was a member of the Committee on naval affairs, in which his practical common sense and extraordinary business capacity gave him an influential position. He was one of the delegates from the State of New York to the Peace Convention, which met in Washington in February, 1861. This body contained many of the ablest, most patriotic and influential men of the country. They met in the hope of devising some measures to arrest the civil war which was then seen to be impending. Mr. Corning was in favor of such concessions as could honorably be made, and acted with Mr. Crittenden, and Mr. Guthrie, and other gentlemen of like pacific

views; but the extreme men controlled the Convention, and nothing was accomplished.

On again entering Congress, he was placed on the Committee of Ways and Means. The terrible conflict to preserve the Union was then in progress, and the power and resources of the government were tasked to the utmost. The great problem in this exigency was to provide a circulating medium equal to the financial necessities of the country. The precious metals were rapidly rising in the market, and paper money was correspondingly depressed. The peril of the government was supreme and the Treasury Department in despair. In this juncture the responsibility devolved upon the financial committees of Congress was tremendous. Mr. Corning's long experience as a banker in Albany, where he had been connected with several heavy moneyed institutions, as President and Director, imparted great weight to his opinions and suggestions. Although an earnest and uncompromising Democrat, he supported the war measures of the administration with intelligent zeal, and Mr. Lincoln often spoke of his valuable services in Congress in terms of warm and grateful acknowledgment. He resigned his seat in the House at the opening of the second session of the 38th Congress, determined to withdraw finally from public life. But the people have a method of compelling the services of men whose abilities they know to be available, and Mr. Corning was constrained to accept a seat in the recent Convention called to frame a new Constitution of the State. His wisdom and forecast made him one of the most conservative and valuable members of that body. His counsel and advice are always safe and discreet. It is in the Committee-room and in small bodies of men that he is most effective and influential. For although self possessed under all circumstances, with great tenacity of purpose and nerves of iron, he never obtrudes his opinions, and is sparing of recommendations. He investigates every subject cautiously and thoroughly, and when he decides, his conclusion is final.








*J. M. de Kuyper*

## JOHN WATTS DE PEYSTER.

BY FREDERICK WHITTAKER.

 JOHN WATTS DE PEYSTER, Brevet Major-General New York State National Guard, the subject of the following sketch, is a lineal descendant of two of the most prominent families in the colony of New York prior to the Revolution.

The founder of the race in America was Johannes de Peyster, himself descended from an old Huguenot family, driven out of France about the time of the massacre of Saint Bartholomew, and long settled in Holland. Johannes was Schepen, Burgomaster, member of the "Commission for Defence," and Deputy-Mayor of Nieuw Amsterdam, and was offered the mayoralty. He declined this honor, because he could speak no language but Dutch.

His son, Abraham, was the first treasurer of the province of New York, colonel commanding the whole militia of his district, member of the King's Council; and, as president of the Council, acting governor in the crisis of 1701.

His grandson Abraham, and his great-grandson Frederic, were also successively treasurers of the colony, or province. His great-great-grandsons, Abraham, Frederic, and James, were officers in the royal service, in which the two first were wounded, and the third lost his life.

In the next generation, the only son old enough to bear arms was James F. de Peyster, a captain in the war of 1812-15. Another younger son, Frederic de Peyster, the general's father, was one of the earliest and most influential members of the New York Historical Society, which owes much to his energy, influence, and ability. Of this he was recently the President, and as such de-

livered several addresses of the greatest merit and most enduring interest.

On the maternal side, the Watt, or Watts family, entered the colony about the time of the English conquest, and were distinguished as merchants and public men in colonial affairs. John Watts (obit, 1836), the maternal grandfather of the gentleman under consideration, in early life member of Congress, and Speaker of the Assembly, was the founder of the Leake and Watts Orphan House, situated to the northwest of the Central Park, and immediately adjoining Morning Side Park.

His brother, Stephen Watts, was a major commanding a battalion at the age of twenty-two; and, as second in command, in one of the bloodiest and most decisive battles of the century, lost his leg on the field.

His son, George Watts, was aid to General Scott, and saved that General's life in Canada, prior to the battle of Chippewa.

So much for his ancestors. Space will not permit further details. The three sons of the subject of our biography, Watts, Frederic, and Johnston L. de Peyster, were respectively brevetted colonel, major, and lieutenant-colonel of volunteers by the United States, and colonels by the State of New York; the first, for "gallant conduct at the battle of Chancellorsville;"\* the second, for "faithful and meritorious services;" the third, for "gallant and meritorious service," in having raised the *first real American* flag over the capitol of Richmond, Virginia, April 3, 1865. For this deed, Johnston L. de Peyster received a vote of thanks from this city, for "giving to New York this *historic honor*."

General de Peyster, Brevet Major-General New York State National Guard, is essentially a self-made man, in the line of distinction to which he has devoted his time, means, and talents, for

\* Colonel J. Watts de Peyster, junior, was aide-de-camp at Alexandria, before Yorktown, at Williamsburg, and Seven Pines, or Fair Oaks, to his cousin, the distinguished major-general Philip Kearny, who, with his (Col. J. W. de P., jr's.) father, were the sole male descendants and heirs of the Hon. John Watts above referred to, and were brought up together as brothers in their grandfather's house.



over a quarter of a century; namely, the improvement of the militia system of his native State; and, through her, of his native country.

Born in affluence, and succeeding to a handsome fortune before his majority, John Watts de Peyster was one of those men who *could not be idle* in the possession of a fortune.

Some men in his position would have sunk themselves in sloth and pleasure, leading an aimless and butterfly existence; wanderers upon the face of Europe in the empty pursuit of enjoyment, and sneerers at their own free home, as "totally devoid of culture, you know." Others would have sunk themselves still deeper in money-grubbing, piling millions upon millions, rising early and going to rest late—miserable slaves amid all their wealth to the sordid spirit of Mammon.

Some men, in the like position, blessed with a share of brains, become literary *dilettanti*, attenders of societies, "patrons of letters," so called, feeding their vanity at the expense of poorer literary men.

Some few—and the person referred to among them—saved from the necessity of laboring for their daily bread, still feel a something within them that spurs them on to work for others, partly, perhaps, for fame, but much more for the good of their fellow-men.

In one class of individuals it takes the shape of politics, and produces such men as Pitt, Fox, and Jefferson. In others, it assumes the form of military ardor, and blossoms out in generals such as Washington, Lafayette, and Oliver Cromwell; all men of independent fortune.

In the subject of this sketch it took a military direction. The military spirit is one as hard to combat where it exists—as hard to raise where it does not—as any of the various phases of mental bias. Where a boy possesses it in its full sense, how or why he can not tell, it becomes a resistless and consuming passion; and one as far removed from the love of destruction, that has often been held to be its bane, as light from darkness. The born soldier is

always tender-hearted and chivalrous, in his highest and best manifestation. He can no more help being a soldier in spirit, than a poet can help being a poet.

So it was with de Peyster. The instant that he became a free man, master of his own actions, he threw himself into military studies with all the ardor of an enthusiast. Wars were not, when he sought his first commission; *but the preparation for future wars* was to be made. In the militia of a free country lies its chief hope for the future. Standing armies are a nuisance and a burden, oftentimes failing a country at its utmost need, as is the case now patent in France. A reliable militia, in the *true* sense of the word, is a tower of strength. The keen prescience of de Peyster recognized this fact very early in his military career. He threw himself heart and soul into the work of making the State Militia of New York a truly reliable force, using his time and extensive means with the utmost freedom.

In the year 1849, already a colonel, he was assigned to the command of the twenty-second regimental district of New York State, and began to work in real earnest. The old militia system of the State, at that time, had been entirely abolished; and the new was in a disorganized and chaotic state, almost inconceivable, in consequence of the repeal of all existing laws. In that year a new and sweeping system was inaugurated, which undertook to remedy all these defects. The whole State was divided into districts, each to furnish a regiment in proportion to its population.

Many old organizations, full of *esprit de corps* and party prejudice, had been remorselessly swept away. The twenty-second regimental district embraced the headquarters of over a dozen so-called regiments, each provided with a full and flowing staff of *officers*, but not so plentiful in the useful but humble private. It was situated partly in Dutchess, partly in Columbia County, and in the hot-bed of the anti-rent district. The task of a colonel, who should enforce the attendance of men in a new regiment which they disliked, was a difficult one. Mutiny very nearly broke out on several

occasions. But the firmness and rigorous discipline of the new commander, seconded by a staff of congenial spirits, prevailed over the stubborn and refractory elements around, and he received from the able Samuel Stevens, then adjutant-general of the State, and author of the new law, the high praise of being the only officer in the State, save one, who had done his *whole* duty, and organized a reliable force in a district unusually opposed to the new state of things.

At his own expense, in conjunction with colonel, now Brevet Brigadier-General, William P. Wainwright, he furnished, horsed, and manned, a section of flying artillery, to manœuvre with his regiment—the men coming from his own place and neighborhood, who, by the testimony of competent officers, were as expert in their duties as any regular mounted battery in the United States service.

In the year 1851 he was rewarded by promotion to the rank of Brigadier-General New York State Militia, for “important services.” The commission came from the governor (Washington Hunt), and was the first ever conferred in that way in the State of New York. The office had, up to that time, been elective—whence more than one half of the inefficiency of the former militia.

Relieved from active militia duty by the state of his health, which had become so precarious that a voyage to Europe was regarded as necessary to save him from consumption, the ever-active spirit of the man would not suffer him to go there without *something to do*.

At his own request, paying his own expenses, he was deputed as “military agent” to Europe from the State, with his credentials indorsed by the general government, to examine into the National Guard organizations, municipal military systems, and fire departments of the continental powers, and report on the one to be recommended as best suited for adoption at home.

The result of his labors, extending over a period of three years, was embodied in two reports to the adjutant-general of the State. Almost every suggestion made in those reports has been carried

into practical execution ;\* and had the scheme which he submitted been acted upon, we should have had, at the commencement of our civil war, a force of well-drilled troops, available at a week's notice, which would have crushed it in the bud.

Influences beyond the control of those who have a heartfelt interest in the reports referred to, caused his suggestions to be practically neglected ; while adroit politicians filched from him all the credit due to his self-denying exertions in spite of continued ill health.

In the year 1855, a brief gleam of sunlight illumined de Peyster's prospects of military usefulness. In that year he was appointed State Adjutant-General. But he soon found that to succeed in the slough of Albany politics, he must give up all hope of serving the militia, and turn his official position to purposes foreign to the office. This suited him so illy, that in a few months after he resigned his position, preferring to retain his honor, to occupying a military position as the price of degrading it into a mere political agency. Nevertheless, during his brief term of service, he cut the Gordian knots of many abuses which had shackled the organization of the State militia, and gave it the first impulse toward real efficiency.

To use the language of his successor, Robert H. Pruyn, afterward United States ambassador to Japan : "I should as soon think of partitioning a hornet's nest, as of attempting many things you have had the boldness to execute."

For several years after his return from Europe, he was hard at work in his brigade district ; embracing the whole of Dutchess and a great part of Columbia County—his old regiment, the twenty-second, being a part of it. His devotion to duty may be inferred from the fact, that during three years he published, at his own expense, a monthly journal called the "*Eclairneur*," for gratuitous

\* He also suggested a plan for a paid Fire Department, with steam fire-engines—which eventually was recognized as a necessity. As a testimonial of his satisfaction, an exquisite gold medal was presented to his representative by Governor Hunt.



distribution to his command, and to all who desired to improve themselves in sound military knowledge. The quantity of useful and valuable matter contained in these volumes is wonderful. A treatise on the "Science of the General Staff," by General Von Hardegg (adjutant-general to the King of Wurtemberg), was fully translated and reprinted in it, and many other equally valuable treatises of a briefer character.

During these years, too, General de Peyster commenced that career in which he has since been so distinguished, that of a military writer, biographer, and critic.

In 1856 appeared his biography of field-marshal Torstenson, the distinguished successor of Gustavus Adolphus, whose genius crowned with final success the efforts of Sweden in the Thirty Years' War, and insured the triumph of the reformed religion.

This biography gained him a most flattering notice abroad ; and amongst others, three handsome medals from H. R. M. Oscar, King of Sweden, in recognition of the ability and research displayed in the work.

From this time to the outbreak of the Rebellion, General de Peyster was principally occupied in military writing. He retired from active duty in the militia in 1856, his health giving way under a complication of painful disorders, under which most men would have ceased to work, and which rendered his life, for many years, one long round of pain. Every interval of comparative tranquillity was occupied in that severest form of literary labor, historical, especially military composition.

A series of volumes, papers, and pamphlets on history, biography, and ethnology, attracted much complimentary notice in England ; and his military contributions to different newspapers over the signature of "Anchor," of which many were translated and published in Europe, are remarkable for their soundness of criticism and foresight.

During the war of the Rebellion, he was unwillingly compelled by forces beyond his control, in addition to a most critical state of

health, to be an observer. Still what could be accomplished at home by writing, speaking, and influence, was done by the invalid to serve his country. One of his addresses before the Historical Society of Vermont, in the Legislative Hall at Montpelier, was a prophecy fulfilled to the letter. That these were appreciated, appears from the fact that, in 1866, both chambers of the State Legislature united in a concurrent resolution, the only similar one on record in any State, by which they bestowed on him the rank of Brevet Major-General National Guard, State of New York, for "meritorious services tendered to the National Guard and to the United States, prior to and during the Rebellion." The recommendations which procured its passage, were signed by General Rosecrans and other distinguished officers and governors, etc. Generals Grant and Sherman, and others of high rank and renown, have recognized the ability and labors of General de Peyster.

General, Hon. Sir Edward Cust, one of the few remaining Waterloo veterans, author of the "Lives of the Warriors," and "Annals of the Wars,"—embracing fifteen volumes—dedicated the last of his series to General de Peyster, in a very flattering letter, occupying twenty-seven pages, in which he acknowledges himself largely indebted to our countryman for many "truly valuable hints and suggestions;" and particularly for "preaching practical strategy." General Cust observes of this: "I readily accept from you this expression. It comprises all that can be said or written upon skill in war."

Moreover, this distinguished veteran adopted as types, and reproduced in his works, the lives of the generals selected as the best exemplars by our fellow-citizen.

His writings since that time, his criticisms on various battles of the war, have been numerous and masterly. The Third Corps (Union) of the Army of the Potomac, recently voted the general a magnificent badge, by a resolution worded in the most flattering terms, for his noble defence of that body, and vindication of their corps-commander, in his account of Gettysburg. The battle of

Chancellorsville has been presented by his pen in a manner perfectly exhaustive, leaving nothing to desire in the way of completeness and well-considered criticism.

But one of the most remarkable facts in de Peyster's writings is his military prescience. In the year 1866 he foreshadowed, in a series of articles, the victory of Prussia over Austria, and in a long communication to the *Army and Navy Journal* of May 4, 1867 (relative to the threatened war at that time between France and Prussia respecting Luxembourg), the result of the pending hostilities. This article, were it not found in the files of the *Journal* for 1867, might be taken as a simple narrative of what has happened in 1870. It was a prophecy, and the prophecy is accomplished. He also indicated in a series of articles, not only the extraordinary opening movements and successes of the Prussians, their subsequent career and investment of Paris, but even predicted as inevitable the unparalleled surrender of Sedan.

Whether we consider General de Peyster as a man spending time, and talents, and fortune, for a valuable end—his country's preparation for defence; or in the light of a careful, judicious historian, with the single aim of truth before his eyes, his conduct is worthy of emulation. If the same self-denying spirit were more common, our political management would not have become what it now is. If men of fortune like him would devote themselves as assiduously to what *they* are fit to do, to help their country as he has done, in his special province, the country would be better governed, and the people less burdened and robbed without return.

Absorbed in selfish and sordid pursuits, as too many rich men are, it is a relief to come across one whose idea of duty comports better with the patriotic era of the past, than our own days of sloth and corruption.





## CALVIN T. HULBURD,

OF BRASHER FALLS, NEW YORK.



EARLY in this century the parents of Mr. Hulburd emigrated from Vermont to St. Lawrence County, New York. He was born in the year 1809, in a log-house, in the township of Stockholm. His first school hours were in a log stockade, erected as a refuge against a surprise by hostile Indians. Mr. Hulburd often relates his remembrance of being punished therein by the schoolmistress, by having both his hands tied up to the great wooden latch of the door, because, though only two years old, he did not sit still. In time the picketed stockade gave place to the log school-house proper. Devouring all the reading matter there and thereabouts attainable, his parents conceived the idea of giving the boy a college education, a great step in those days. In a minister's study, and in the county academy, he fitted for college. At the age of sixteen he entered Middlebury College. He graduated in the year 1829 with the reputation of being a great reader, a graceful writer, a ready debater, and one of the best *belles-lettres* scholars of his class. A Jackson boy in politics, more than once in his Junior and Senior years he was intrusted with the editorial columns of the *National Standard*, then the Democratic organ of that section of the State of Vermont.

In the year 1830 he commenced the study of the law in the office of the venerable Abraham Van Vechten, of Albany. The year following was spent at New Haven, in the law school connected with Yale College. At that time the presiding divinity of that school was the accomplished ex-Senator and ex-Chief Justice Daggett, of Connecticut. Mr. Hulburd's last year of reading was in the office of Judge Isaac McConnike, of Troy.

In 1833, in the city of New York, after passing the usual examination, he was duly licensed to practice as attorney at law and solicitor in chancery in the courts of the State of New York. Those who knew Mr. Hulburt anticipated for him a professional career of usefulness and eminence. But after repeated trials he found his naturally strong constitution had been overmuch or too indiscriminately drawn upon by unremitting study and application. The confinement and drudgery of a practicing lawyer's office his health could not endure, and so, at the threshold of his professional life, he was constrained to turn away and engage in out-door and more active labors.

In 1839 with a brother he purchased, in the township of Brasher, in his native county, a very considerable tract of unimproved land, situate on the banks of the St. Regis River. Here they built mills and manufactories, and soon saw springing into embryo existence the village of Brasher Falls. There Mr. Hulburt erected for himself an elegant country residence, and there he still resides.

Though at different periods a merchant and manufacturer, a farmer of no small repute, a delighted breeder of blooded Ayrshires, yet he never, in all the bustle and jostle of an active and busy life, lost his love of books. His unique and charming library contains hundreds of volumes on agriculture and theology, rare and choice writers of history, biography, poetry, general literature, etc. His occasional lectures before various bodies, lyceums, agricultural fairs, etc., have evinced that his books are not mere show companions.

In the fall of 1841 he was elected on the Democratic ticket to the Assembly of the State. The session opened in January, 1842. Before the first month had elapsed he had defined his position on the then great financial question of the day—stop expenditures until the credit of the State is at par, and then pay as work is done. Re-elected in the fall of 1842, he was, the next session, placed at the head of the Committee on Colleges, Academies, and Common Schools. As such chairman he made his mark on the common-

school system of the State, in the introduction of various measures tending to improve and elevate the general educational interests of the State. Particularly did he urge the propriety, other things being equal, of giving the preference to female teachers, supporting his views in a strong and eloquent report.

Returned to the Assembly in 1844, as chairman of the same important committee, he was directed to visit and examine the normal schools recently established in Massachusetts. After a careful inspection of those seminaries, and a considerate scrutiny of their workings and bearings upon the common schools of that State, he returned, and in an exhaustive and masterly report he traced the origin and progress and the results of teachers' seminaries in Europe, in Massachusetts, and elsewhere in this country where they had been tried. The report concluded with a bill establishing at Albany a State normal school for five years, and appropriating for its support ten thousand dollars each year. Of course a measure so novel encountered a strenuous opposition, but the report, in its facts and logic and conclusions, could not be gainsaid. The bill became a law, and that one seminary ere long bore such fruits that other sections of the State began to clamor for similar institutions, and now other States, where elevation, thoroughness, and improvement are recognized goals of effort, are doing likewise.

After several years' voluntary retirement from the political arena, Mr. Hulburd consented to serve in the Legislature of 1862. As chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the Assembly, early in the session, he introduced resolutions looking to the maintenance of a sound financial business basis. He supported the resolutions in a speech of so much force and power, that it was remarked as a misfortune that it could not have been uttered in the hall of the Federal Congress, rather than at a State capital. During the session, in a forcible speech, he set forth the defenseless condition of the harbor and the city of New York as perilous in view of the civil war raging south of the Potomac. His fears were ridiculed as chimerical and groundless, but when on a certain memorable Sunday

afternoon the telegraph announced at Albany that the dread *Merimac* was steaming out of the river and it was supposed that New York would be her destination, more than one exclaimed dolefully, "Hulburt was right." So, too, when at a subsequent day he pleaded that the northern frontier of the State might be put in a condition of defense if not offense, he was jeered at. But when the rebel sympathizers "over the border" made their demonstrations along "the line," and when the "Fenian times" afterward came, it was felt that defense would have been quite desirable and available.

In 1862 Mr. Hulburt was elected from the strong Republican St. Lawrence district, to the Thirty-eighth Congress. His first speech in Congress was in exposition and vindication of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. His speech at a subsequent period on the financial situation was listened to with attention. One of his most effective forensic efforts was in explanation and vindication of his report on Collector Smyth's administration of the New York Custom-House. No speech in Congress during the winter of 1867-68 produced such a sensation in New York City and the country, as did that terrible invective. Those who read it now will not wonder the victim himself shed tears as he read it in the next morning's papers. Although subsequently several times on the floor as a speaker, his congressional forte seemed to be as an investigator of abuses, corruptions, and frauds. He was, on first taking his seat, made chairman of the Committee on Public Expenditures, and thereafter by common consent all allegations of bribery, extortion, corruption, and official malfeasance were referred for investigation to that committee. In this line of duty he overhauled the Boston Custom House, and several times probed to the quick, and exposed the rascalities and rottenness of the Collectors of the Port of New York. The several fearless, scathing reports he from time to time made on the men and their practices, with which he had thus to do, are still referred to as authorities as to the standing of the officials he exposed and pronounced upon.

Mr. Hulburt's congressional career closed March 4, 1869. In



August of the same year, it is understood with much reluctance he accepted the position of Superintendent of Construction of the New Post Office in the city of New York. He had served six years in Congress with Mr. Boutwell, two of these years with him on the Reconstruction Committee. Secretary Boutwell knew his firmness, his incorruptible honesty, and had no fears but that, whatever temptations might beset his superintendent in New York, he would "maintain his integrity." It is to Mr. Hulburd's credit that in this day of calumny and "falling away," at Albany and in Washington, handling hundreds of thousands of dollars, holding in his hands reputations of priceless estimation, no personal opponent, no political antagonist, has ever breathed a suspicion of or against his stainless personal integrity.

Two or three personal items should, perhaps, be added. He was married in 1842; in 1846 he was elected a corporate member of the American Board of Missions; in 1867, while traveling in Europe, Hamilton College bestowed upon him the degree of LL. D. In his church-membership Mr. Hulburd is believed to be Presbyterian.

The brief sketch of this honest, genial, modest, yet resolute, progressive self-made man, sets before the youth of America an example worthy of imitation.







*J. Clinton Hastings*



## SERRANUS CLINTON HASTINGS.\*

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SUCCESS is not always an evidence of genius, no more than failure is an assurance of incapacity, yet he who triumphs in life's battle despite many and serious obstacles in his early years—he who, in due time, attains honored prominence among his fellow-men without such accessories as wealth and influence to render the struggle less arduous—in a word, he who, by dint of his own brain and muscle, rises from poverty and obscurity to affluence and position, surely develops rare ability, and illustrates a life-story worthy of emulation. Such a man is the subject of this sketch, and his career is another and convincing example of that success which follows merit, and to which all may aspire who, like him, possess the will, the force of character, and the perseverance essential to its accomplishment.

The ancestry of Mr. Hastings can be traced to times quite remote, and he is supposed to be a descendant of the general of his name, who, during the Heptarchy, led the Danish forces into England. His grandfather emigrated from England to Rhode Island early in the seventeenth century, and afterward settled in New York. Robert Collins Hastings, his father, was a well-educated and intelligent mechanic, a native of New York, and married Patience Brayton, of the large family of that name, who were amongst the first settlers of the counties of Jefferson and St. Lawrence.

He was conspicuous in the stirring political events of his day, and was a warm friend and supporter of De Witt Clinton, after whom he named his son.

\* This sketch, originally written by Thomas P. Madden for "Representative Men of the Pacific," has been re-written, revised, and enlarged for this work.

He was in command of a company at Sackett's Harbor at the close of the war of 1812, and, in a personal encounter, provoked by the colonel of his regiment, he dealt that officer a sword-thrust, on account of which, though never prosecuted *criminaliter*, he was harassed and persecuted by the colonel and his numerous and powerful friends, until he became reduced from comfortable affluence to poverty. In this condition he removed to near Geneva, where he died, at the age of thirty-four years, destitute and despondent, leaving a wife and five children, of whom the subject of this notice was the eldest. Before speaking of the son, we will mention another incident in the eventful career of the father. Robert C. Hastings, during the war of 1812, together with two others of Watertown, became surety for Paymaster —, who, some time after, represented that he had been robbed of \$80,000 in government funds. This statement not being credited, the three sureties repaired one Sunday morning to the residence of the suspected paymaster and invited him to a walk in the fields, and there thrust him three times in a water-pit, declaring each should be the last unless he would reveal the truth. The third time convinced the culprit of the terrible earnestness of the parties with whom he had to deal, and after being restored to consciousness, not without considerable difficulty, he finally acknowledged that the money was concealed on his wife's person. Acting on this confession, they immediately returned to the house, and forcibly took possession of the secreted funds, whereupon the enraged wife and proud woman, belonging to one of the first families of the country, unwilling to survive the disgrace of herself and husband, ran to the center of Black River Bridge near at hand, leaped into the stream and was drowned.

Serranus Clinton Hastings was born November 22, 1814, in Jefferson County, New York. In early youth he passed six years in study at Gouverneur Academy, and, from this time to manhood, no one but himself can appreciate the difficulties, arising from poverty, he had to contend with in meeting the necessities of life, and at the same time prosecuting his education. At the age of twenty he

became principal of the Norwich Academy in Chenango County, New York, where he introduced the Hamiltonian system of instruction in the languages, the analytical system of mathematics, and improvements in other branches of education. After one year's successful teaching, he resigned this position, and commenced the study of law with Charles Thorpe, Esq., of Norwich. Here he continued his studies but a few months, and, in 1834, emigrated to Lawrenceburg, Indiana, where he completed his legal course in the office of Daniel S. Majors, Esq. He did not, however, enter at once upon his professional labors, and in 1836, during the bitter Presidential contest, we find him editing, in the interest of the Democratic party, the *Indiana Signal*, an influential journal, which gave spirited and effective support to Martin Van Buren. His editorial career of six months closed with the triumph of his candidate; and he then parted with his second brother, who migrated to Texas, enlisted in a company of which he afterwards became captain, fought four years on the Texan frontier and Mexican border, and was killed with nearly all of his command—victims of the treachery of his Mexican allies.

Mr. Hastings resumed his journey westward in December, 1836, and, on reaching Terre Haute, Indiana, presented himself to Judge Porter of the Circuit Court, and ably sustained the test of a severe legal examination at the hands of that distinguished jurist. His next move was still further west until he reached the Black Hawk purchase (now the State of Iowa), and arrived at Burlington, in January, 1837. The following spring he took up his abode on the western bank of the Mississippi, where has since sprung up the city of Muscatine, Iowa, and here resolved to commence the practice of the profession for which he had prepared himself, having first been examined by Judge Irwin and admitted to the bar. At that time this vast stretch of country was attached to the Territory of Wisconsin, for judicial purposes. Shortly after his admittance to the bar, Mr. Hastings was commissioned a Justice of the Peace by Governor Dodge, of Wisconsin, with jurisdiction extending over the

country between Burlington and Davenport, a distance of ninety miles. The western limit of this jurisdiction being unconfined, the ambitious young magistrate, for his own satisfaction, fixed it at the *Pacific Ocean*—not having the fear of Mexico before his eyes. The first and only case during his term of office was a criminal charge against a man found guilty, by the Justice, of stealing thirty dollars from a citizen and three dollars from the court. The sentence, characteristic of the early and summary jurisprudence of the West, was that the prisoner be taken to an adjacent grove and tied to an oak tree, and receive upon his back thirty lashes for the money stolen from the citizen and three lashes for the three dollars taken from the Court, and to be thence conveyed over the river to the Illinois shore, and banished from the Territory forever. This sentence was duly, formally, and thoroughly executed in presence of the court and all the people.

On June 12, 1838, Iowa was created a separate Territory, and Judge Hastings soon after became the Democratic candidate of his district, for the first Legislature to assemble under the Territorial government. To this position he was elected after a very spirited contest; and from time to time thereafter, and until 1846, when Iowa was admitted into the Union, he continued in public life, representing his constituents either in the House or Council. During one of these sessions of the Territorial Legislature, he was elected President of the Council and discharged the duties of the office with marked ability and dispatch. At another session, while a member of the Judiciary Committee, and associated with Hon. James W. Grimes, since United States Senator, he reported from the committee the celebrated statute known in Oregon and Iowa for many years as the *Blue Book*, and this severe and comprehensive task was accomplished in ninety days, the limit of a legislative session.

About this time occurred what is known in the history of Iowa as the "*Missouri War*," originating in the attempt of the sheriff of Clark County, Missouri, and other Missouri officials, to collect taxes within the territorial limits of Iowa. Governor Boggs, of Missouri,



and Governor Lucas, of Iowa, were the acknowledged and opposing leaders of this "war"; and so great was the excitement at that time, and so bitter the feeling engendered, that bloodshed seemed inevitable. Judge Hastings took an active part in the conflict; he left his seat in the Legislature, repaired to Muscatine, and assumed command of the "Muscatine Dragoons," and three companies of militia. Without tents or sufficient clothing, with no arms save pistols and bowie-knives, no forage for his animals, and but a scanty supply of food for his men, he led his force, in the middle of a severe and bleak winter, to the northern boundary of Missouri. The result of this campaign was the bloodless but glorious capture of the obnoxious sheriff, who was taken in triumph back to the outraged soil of Iowa and lodged in the Muscatine county jail. Before Major Hastings could again cross the Missouri line, where the Missouri forces were arming and preparing to meet him, the difficulties were adjusted and peace fully restored. Shortly after the termination of this serio-comic campaign Major Hastings was appointed on the governor's staff, with the rank of major of militia.

Early in 1846 a convention of the people of Iowa assembled at the capitol and accepted the boundaries proposed by Congress for the new State. Major Hastings was unanimously nominated for Congress, and elected subsequently by the people. Iowa being admitted into the Union, December 28, 1846, he took his seat as her representative in the twenty-ninth Congress. With one exception he was the youngest member of the House—a body then noted for the virtues and abilities of its Representatives. John Quincy Adams had not then been removed from the theater of his great triumphs, and Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, Andrew Johnson and other bright names shone on the roll of members.

In January, 1848, Major Hastings was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Iowa, which position he held a little over a year, and then resigned for the purpose of emigrating to California. He arrived in that State in the spring of 1849 and settled

at Benicia. He was soon thereafter unanimously elected, by the Legislature, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and served out his term of two years with characteristic ability and to the satisfaction of all. In 1851 Judge Hastings received the Democratic nomination for Attorney-General of California, to which position he was elected, receiving the highest vote cast at the election, except that given on the same ticket to the candidate for State treasurer. This vote was considered highly complimentary, as the field was occupied solely by his eloquent Whig opponent who thoroughly canvassed the State. At the end of his two years' term of office he retired from public life, and has not since been before the people as a candidate, although he has been prominently interested in and identified with the growth and prosperity of his adopted State. Judge Hastings was the guest of William H. Seward in his tour of observation through Oregon, Washington, and Alaska, in the summer of 1869, and private duties interfered to prevent him accompanying the distinguished statesman in his journey through our sister Republics.

On the return of Governor Seward, in the summer of the past year (1870), *en route* for Japan and China, he was the guest of Judge Hastings for about ten days, at his residence in San Francisco. The entertainment was highly pleasing to the governor and his party, and he often speaks of the hospitality of his friend as being *unsurpassed*. Judge Hastings claims that the people of California especially owe a debt of gratitude to William H. Seward, and cannot do him too much honor—to say nothing of the respect due to one recognized as a great statesman and philosopher by all civilized nations.

The Judge is a married man, and has seven children living; three sons and four daughters. He is of an active, nervous temperament, genial manners, and agreeable presence; is tall in stature, of powerful build, and evidently possesses great physical endurance. Although a ready and racy debater, he lays no claim to oratory; nor is he particularly adapted to the legal profession—his nature

rebelling against the restraints of judicial office, notwithstanding his legal attainments are considerable, and his conduct and decisions, as the highest judicial functionary of two States, have been generally commended, and seldom, if ever, condemned. He is a good Latin scholar; is blessed with large and liberal views, extended information, and fine conversational powers, infused at times with wit and humor. Politics and finances generally engross his thoughts; still he is addicted to travel, and since he left public office, the greater part of his time which could be spared from the proper superintendence of his children's education, and the management of his estates, has been spent in extended travels in this country and Europe. He frequently of late years visits the scenes of his early life in Iowa, and is always received by the old settlers of that country with demonstrations of pleasure characteristic of the Western pioneer.

While wearing the honors and cares of office, whirling in the dizzy round of political agitation, he always husbanded his resources, and managed his private business with consummate wisdom. During the exciting, prosperous times when the State of California was in its infancy, he wisely foresaw and embraced the opportunity of laying a broad and solid foundation for future wealth. Indeed, his whole career, whether viewed from a political or financial standpoint, has been one of unbroken success.

As one of the pioneers of the marvelous development of the far West, he is to-day witnessing the fruits of his early labors, and those of his co-workers in the great field of modern progress. Scarcely beyond the prime of life, he can now look back upon a past well employed, a noble work accomplished, and enjoy that satisfaction which emanates from a consciousness of success the more abundant that, in advancing individual prosperity, it has also enhanced public good. The heart of such a man cannot grow old, nor will his memory die.



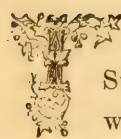






*S. Seymour,*  
4

## SILAS SEYMOUR.



IN the development of the material resources of the United States, by that elaborate system of railroads and canals which traverse our country in all directions, bringing the people and products of its remotest parts into comparative proximity with each other, there have been mechanical and engineering questions presented, whose solution has required the highest order of ability, as well as great powers of invention and perseverance. That these problems have been successfully met, and the most gigantic obstacles overcome, is evidenced by the results, which we see before us every day. And it is gratifying to us, as Americans, to feel that these results have been accomplished almost entirely by the ability and perseverance of our American engineers,—some of whom perhaps may have received their education abroad, but the majority of whom are truly to be termed self-made men, and who have been educated by their own works.

In this latter class stands the subject of this sketch, who, literally beginning at the foot of the ladder, has by his own energy and ability risen to its top, and having been actually engaged in some of the most important engineering operations of the day, now, while yet scarcely past the meridian of life, ranks as one of the most prominent civil engineers of our country, and may be fitly regarded as one of the “men of progress.”

Silas Seymour was born June 20th, 1817, in the town of Stillwater, Saratoga County, State of New York. The first eighteen years of his life were spent upon a farm with his father, Deacon John Seymour, and his grandfather, Deacon William Seymour, who, soon after the Revolutionary War, in which he took an active part, had removed from Connecticut to the State of New York.

During this period, young Seymour had no opportunity of obtaining other than a good common school education, and a part of the time he worked as an apprentice at the carpenter and joiner trade.

In the spring of 1835, he obtained a situation as axeman in one of the engineering parties which were making the first surveys for the New York and Erie Railroad, through the interior of Sullivan county, New York. After serving about one month in that capacity, he was transferred to another party which had been organized at the town of Deposit, on the Delaware river, and promoted to the position of rodman.

During the latter part of the same year the first forty miles of the road, extending from Deposit to the mouth of the Callicoon creek, were placed under contract, and Mr. Seymour was appointed Assistant Engineer, in charge of a portion of the work. Benjamin Wright was at that time Chief Engineer of the New York and Erie Railroad, Edwin F. Johnson was Associate Engineer, and H. C. Seymour was Resident Engineer, in charge of the forty miles under construction, and also of the surveys westward toward Binghamton.

In the spring of 1837, work was suspended upon the railroad, and the subject of our sketch embraced the opportunity of devoting his time to study in the Fredonia (Chatauqua county) Academy, where he acquired a knowledge of chemistry, natural philosophy, and the higher mathematics.

The work was resumed in 1838, and Mr. Seymour's connection with the road continued through all its various phases of prosperity and adversity until its final completion in 1851, at which time he was acting as Chief Engineer of the Western Division; Mr. Horatio Allen was at that time the Consulting Engineer of the Company. Major Thompson S. Brown had acted as Chief Engineer until the completion of the road to Owego, in Tioga county, when he was appointed by the Russian government in the place of Major Whistler, who had died while in charge of the railroads then being constructed in that country.

During Major Brown's connection with the Erie road, he had always placed Mr. Seymour in charge, as Division Engineer, of the most difficult portions of the work, both as regards location and construction; and when he resigned to go to Russia, the company continued him in the duty to which he had been previously assigned by the Chief Engineer, which was that of making the final revision and location of the line between Corning and Dunkirk, the western terminus of the road, on Lake Erie.

In the performance of this duty he recommended several changes in the line which had been previously adopted and in part constructed by the company, in order to shorten the route, and improve the ruling grades. Among the most important of these changes, which were all adopted by the company, was that in the line between the mouth of Little Valley Creek (now the town of Salamanca) and Dunkirk. This change, although it involved the loss of several hundred thousand dollars of previous expenditure, resulted in reducing the maximum grade, ascending eastwardly from Lake Erie, from sixty to forty feet to the mile, and in shortening the distance more than five miles. Its ultimate saving to the company has been almost incalculable.

The New York and Erie Railroad, during the many years of its construction, afforded the best possible school for the education of civil engineers. It embraced all the varieties of work (except tunneling) that are to be found on the most difficult lines in this or any other country, not excepting even the Union and the Central Pacific Railroads. The best and most experienced engineering talent available in the country, outside of its regular corps, was frequently called into requisition, either by the State, or by the company, for the purpose of consulting or deciding upon the selection of routes or the character of structures. The most favorable opportunities were thus afforded the younger engineers for becoming familiar with the views and experiences of the veterans in the profession. The result has been that many of the most successful railway engineers in the country have obtained their first



and most useful lessons, from their early experience upon the New York and Erie Railroad.

Upon the opening of the road to Port Jervis, and subsequently to Binghamton, the Board of Directors passed resolutions, complimenting Mr. Seymour for his skill and energy in completing, within the requisite time, the difficult and expensive work over the Shawangunk mountain, and along the Delaware river; and when the road commenced running between those points, he was appointed Superintendent of Transportation upon that portion of it.

As the Erie Railroad approached completion, the necessity of a railroad connection westward became apparent. The New York Central Railroad interest had secured control of the Buffalo and State Line Railroad, which they were constructing with the narrow gauge (four feet eight and one half inches) and had arranged to pass under the Erie track at a point about three miles east of Dunkirk. The Erie and North East Railroad was also being built with a view of extending the narrow gauge to Erie, in Pennsylvania, and there connecting, and "breaking," with the Ohio gauge, of four feet ten inches.

Mr. Seymour at this time, having obtained consent of his own company, organized the "Dunkirk and State Line Railroad Company," of which he became Chief Engineer, and commenced building the road. He also secured an exclusive lease of the Erie and North East Railroad for the term of twenty years, with the understanding that the six feet gauge of the New York and Erie Railroad, and no other, should be extended to Erie, and there "break" with the Ohio gauge. This operation, together with a disposition manifested by the people of Erie to still aid the New York Central interest in extending their gauge to their town, soon brought about a compromise between the two great corporations, by which it was agreed that the Buffalo and State Line Railroad (since merged in the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Line) should be laid with a gauge of four feet and ten inches, should be located through the New York and Erie depot at Dunkirk, and should be

operated for all time, as a strictly neutral road, as between the New York Central and the New York and Erie Railroad interests.

This arrangement, it was supposed, would create a perfect break of gauge both at Buffalo and at Dunkirk: but the agreement has since been rendered nearly obsolete by the adoption of the "compromise" wheel, which enables the same car to pass over both the four feet eight and a half, and the four feet ten inch gauges.

The citizens of Erie were very much dissatisfied with this arrangement, for the reason that it left them no break of gauge whatever, and they feared their town would thus become a mere way station on the Lake Shore Railroad; whereas they had been fondly anticipating the great benefits that would arise to them from a break between the Western and the two Eastern gauges, involving an entire change of cars both for freight and passengers. They therefore refused to allow the Erie and North East Railroad gauge to be changed from six feet to four feet ten inches, and the celebrated "Erie War of gauges" followed, resulting in several disgraceful riots, and some bloodshed. But time, and the inexorable laws of trade, overcame the difficulty, and their road eventually fell into line, with the other lake shore railroads. The benefits derived by the Erie Railway Company from this arrangement have been and are still very considerable.

Mr. Seymour laid the last rail upon the Western Division of the New York and Erie Railroad, on the 17th of April, 1851, and assisted at the great celebration of the opening of the road for business, on the 15th of May, following. This celebration was participated in by the President of the United States (Millard Fillmore) and his cabinet, including Daniel Webster, then Secretary of State, together with several of the most prominent citizens of the country.

The New York and Erie Railroad, at the time of its completion, was the first continuous line of railway connecting the Atlantic coast with the great Western lakes, in the direction of the Pacific Ocean, and therefore constituted the first link of four hun-

dred and sixty miles in the great chain of railways destined to cross the American continent.

The following editorial notice, clipped from the Omaha (Nebraska) *Daily Herald*, of January 25, 1866, contains a brief sketch of Mr. Seymour's career down to and including the time of his connection with the Union Pacific Railroad :

"Col. Silas Seymour, Consulting Engineer of the Union Pacific Railroad, has been spending a few weeks among us, and we propose to give a few characteristics of himself, and incidents of his life. This gentleman is known throughout the country as one of our most energetic, thoroughly educated, large minded and successful engineers, as his record will show, to which we shall refer hereafter. Col. Seymour is about forty-five years of age, with no indication of so late a period of life, except that the color of his hair has changed somewhat; of close, compact, well-knit frame, symmetrical form, with a face indicative of great determination, and bearing the impress of thought in every lineament. Associating, as he has for many years, with the first men of the times, in literary, political and military circles, and familiar with the best society, he has somewhat of an aristocratic air, but is genial, social, gentlemanly. His great characteristics we should say are perfect coolness and self-possession under all circumstances, an unusual power of concentration of all his powers on whatever he undertakes, a tenacity of purpose that never yields, an affectionate disposition, and a dry, pleasant, and sometimes sparkling wit; these valuable qualities with a logical mind, well stored with useful information, combine to make him one of the pleasantest companions imaginable.

"He commenced his professional career in connection with the New York and Erie Railroad, was engaged in its first surveys, and labored constantly in connection with the enterprise from 1835 until its completion, in 1851. His next position was that of chief engineer of the Buffalo and New York City Railroad, extending from Hornellsville to Buffalo, and of which he was also

for some time the general superintendent. Here he achieved his greatest success in designing and constructing the famous Portage Bridge across the Genessee River, a structure two hundred and thirty-four feet high and eight hundred feet in length. After the completion of this monument of his skill, ingenuity and professional judgment, he, together with his associates, contracted for the construction and equipment of some of the most important roads in the country, embracing the Ohio and Mississippi, Louisville and Nashville, Maysville and Lexington, Scioto and Hocking Valley, New York and Boston Air Line, the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron of Canada, Western of North Carolina, and Sacramento Valley of California.

"In 1855 he was elected State Engineer and Surveyor General of his native State, New York, which responsible office he held during 1856-7, and his reports upon the canals and railroads of that State are regarded as among the best authorities upon these subjects, and have obtained a world-wide reputation for accuracy and adaptation.

"Col. Seymour at about this time established his office in New York, as consulting engineer, the duties of which occupied his time until the breaking out of the rebellion. He was then offered the position of brigadier-general in the army, but declined the honor, and contented himself with aiding his friend, Gen. Sickles, to organize the Excelsior Brigade, which for distinguished services and valor in the field has not been excelled by any army organization. During this time Col. Seymour recommended to Gen. Cameron, then Secretary of War, the construction of independent military railroads leading from the National Capital to New York, Pittsburg and Cincinnati; and also the organization of an independent military railroad bureau, to be placed under the direction of the best railroad managers of the country. The former suggestion unfortunately was not carried out, but the latter was adopted, and under the able management of Gen. McCallum, who commenced his railroad experience under Col. Seymour,



has more than justified the wisdom and foresight of his suggestions.

"In 1862, Col. Seymour was appointed Chief Engineer of the Washington and Alexandria Railroad, with a view to construct a railroad bridge across the Potomac, which important work was successfully completed in 1864. In 1863, he was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior as Consulting Engineer, and afterward Chief Engineer of the Washington Aqueduct, which office he held for two years, when he resigned on account of a suspension of the work for want of an appropriation from Congress, but he remained long enough to recommend some important changes, which have since been adopted and partially carried out, in the plans made by Gen. Meigs, former Chief Engineer, which changes were adopted by the Secretary of the Interior and subsequently approved by Congress. He also recommended in his reports important improvements in the National Capitol, which met the approval of the Department, and must sooner or later command the favorable consideration of Congress. Among these, were the improvement of the Washington Canal, and the improvement of the Potomac River by the construction of a breakwater, so as to bring the navigable channel alongside the water front of the city, the construction of fountains in the parks, and the perfection of a system of drainage and sewerage of the city.

"Col. Seymour was appointed Consulting Engineer of the Union Pacific Road, commencing at Omaha, Nebraska Ter., in 1864, but owing to other engagements was not able to give that work but a portion of his time until the summer of 1865. He is now devoting his best talents to this gigantic work, the great national work of the age, and we hope his life may be spared till its successful completion.

"As a thoroughly educated, successful and practical engineer, it may be said that Col. Seymour has no superior, and perhaps not a rival, in this country. If he has made professional mistakes, they have yet to be discovered, and if the numerous works and



structures designed or constructed by him are defective, either in adaptation or permanency, time has not yet developed the fact. His engagement by the managers of the Union Pacific Railroad is a standing evidence of the sagacity and forethought with which that great work is being constructed, and we hope and trust that the name of Col. Seymour will go down in history in connection with others engaged in the great work, as the successful engineer of this most wonderful conception of the nineteenth century."

At the time of undertaking the construction of the Sacramento Valley Railroad of California, Mr. Seymour very correctly assumed that it would eventually become the western link in the chain of railroads that must sooner or later connect the tide waters of the Pacific with those of the Atlantic Ocean. And Mr. T. D. Judah, the engineer whom he sent out to take charge of that work, was instructed to examine the country up the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, with a view of ultimately extending the road eastward. These explorations resulted in the adoption of the present route for the Central Pacific Railroad.

Colonel Seymour's nomination and election, in 1855, to the position of State Engineer and Surveyor of the State of New York was a recognition by the people of his standing as a civil engineer. This is the only political position he has ever held, his experience teaching him that political honors were a poor recompense for the time spent in the public service, to the neglect of his professional and business interests.

At the time of his first connection, in the winter of 1863-4, with the Union Pacific Railroad—that great enterprise, the conception and ultimate completion of which were the legitimate results of the construction of that first great line from the seaboard to the lakes, nearly twenty-five years before, and with whose whole history Mr. Seymour had been so closely identified,—very little had been done in the way of locating the line

of the road, more than that the eastern terminus, or initial point had been fixed by the President of the United States at Omaha, Nebraska, and a few engineering parties had been engaged in surveying portions of the country to the west of that town. As soon after his appointment as Consulting Engineer as his engagements would permit, he visited and examined the projected lines, and from that time until its completion, was occupied almost entirely with his duties in connection with the road.

These duties were not generally of an executive character, but they were always arduous and responsible. Much of his time was spent in the office of the company at New York (to which city he had then removed from Washington, D. C.), preparing maps, profiles, plans, estimates, reports, etc., and in general consultation with the officers of the company. He made frequent visits to the line of the road, in company with Mr. T. C. Durant, the Vice-President and General Manager, and others concerned in the work, and generally gave his personal attention to changes of route which were adopted by the company upon his recommendation.

These duties were not unattended with personal danger, for the country was traversed by hostile Indians in all directions. He made it a point to always explore the route sufficiently in advance of the construction of the road to enable him to give an intelligent opinion as to the comparative merits of conflicting lines, and in these explorations he was obliged to have an escort with him for protection. During one of these reconnoissances, over the Black Hills, west of Cheyenne, while accompanied by one of the Division Engineers, and an escort of Pawnee warriors, he was threatened by an attack from a large force of hostile Sioux. The Pawnees not only promptly repulsed the Sioux, driving them back into the mountains, but continued the chase until the following day, leaving the engineers entirely unprotected.

Mr. Seymour designed the high bridge over Dale Creek Cañon, near the summit of the Black Hill range of the Rocky Mountains. This bridge is one hundred and twenty-seven feet high, and eight hundred feet long, and stands at an elevation of about eight thousand feet above the sea. It is by far the most imposing mechanical structure upon the road, and resembles in some respects the famous Portage Bridge, which he had constructed several years previously, across the Genesee River, upon the Buffalo branch of the Erie Railway.

During the last year of the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, he spent the greater portion of his time upon the line of the road in Utah, where the principal portion of the work was being done by the Mormons, under the general direction of their President, Brigham Young. At this time a gigantic strife was being waged between the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific Companies, as to which should first reach the Great Salt Lake Valley with its railroad. Mr. Seymour was here of great service in executing the orders and plans of Mr. Durant with reference to the rapid extension of the Union Pacific line westward, although he repeatedly and earnestly urged upon the representatives of both companies the expediency and importance of coming to an early and amicable agreement as to the meeting point of the two roads. Congress, however, interfered at the last moment, and fixed the point of junction at the summit of Promontory Point, a distance of one thousand and eighty-seven miles from Omaha, and of six hundred and ninety miles from Sacramento.

The last rail, connecting the two roads, was laid on the 10th day of May, 1869, with appropriate ceremonies, at which Mr. Seymour, with other principal officers of both companies, had the honor of assisting.

Nearly six hundred miles of the Union Pacific Railroad, lying directly through the heart of the Rocky Mountains, were completed during the last year of its construction; and the entire

distance of nearly eleven hundred miles was constructed in a period of four years—an achievement unparalleled in the history of railroad construction.

Mr. Thomas C. Durant, to whose energy and skill the country is mainly indebted for this great national work, in one of his published reports to the company, pays the following tribute to the subject of this sketch, on account of his services in connection therewith:—

“I am also indebted to Colonel Silas Seymour, the Consulting Engineer, for valuable suggestions and advice, which his long and varied experience in the construction and management of railroads, and other works of internal improvement, has rendered him so competent to give.”

Mr. Seymour may therefore very justly claim the honor of having been more thoroughly identified than any other living engineer, with the construction of both the *initial* and *terminal* links of the great chain of railways, more than three thousand miles in length, which now spans the American Continent from ocean to ocean.

During the winter of 1867–8, under an appointment from the Secretary of the Interior, made by authority of a joint resolution of Congress, he prepared an elaborate report, accompanied by maps, drawings, estimates, etc., upon the subject of improving the channel of, and bridging the Potomac River, in the vicinity of Washington, D. C.

The selection by the General Government, from among the engineers of the country, of Mr. Seymour, in preference to an officer of the regular army corps, for this work, as well as his previous appointment on the Washington Aqueduct, were each of them high professional compliments.

The most important work with which he has been connected as Consulting Engineer, since the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad, is the Adirondack Company's Railroad, which is also being constructed by Mr. T. C. Durant, extending through the



great wilderness of Northern New York, from Saratoga Springs to Ogdensburgh, on the St. Lawrence River, a distance of nearly two hundred miles.

Mr. Seymour was married on the 23d of December, 1840, to Delia, second daughter of the late Hon. George A. French, of Dunkirk, Chautauqua County, New York. They now reside in New York City and have five children living—Florence, George F., James M., Jeanie, and Silas, Jr.





## ISAAC VAN ANDEN.

[We are indebted to the Brooklyn *Monthly*, Horace W. Love, proprietor, for the following sketch; it having been written originally for that Magazine, May, 1869.]



HERE are men among us notable in life for various reasons, concerning whom our children may well be curious, and whose life-histories will be valuable hereafter as encouragements to the thousands who look to them for guidance, or accept them as examples. Such a man is the subject of this sketch, and the writer will be fortunate if he succeeds in fairly presenting his many-sided excellencies without falling into the common and pernicious habit of flattery.

Isaac Van Anden was born in the vicinity of Poughkeepsie, on his father's farm, perhaps a mile back from the Hudson, where his hardy constitution was strengthened by such manual labor as the exigencies of his parents' occupation demanded. He received a common-school education, working hard in the summer and studying in the winter, until old enough to scan for himself the horizon of his future. Farming, he thought, was very well for those who liked it, but to every one else it was very decidedly a nuisance. Although his home prospects were fairer than the average, he chose a trade, and at a comparatively early age was bound as apprentice in the office of the *Poughkeepsie Telegraph*, then and now the principal newspaper of Dutchess County. The contrast between farming and "devilng" was marked and cheering. He was soon noticed by his employers as a lad of merit, whose industry would in time make him, as it eventually did, the best hand in the composing-room. The perfect mastery of the details of his trade was his capital, and while his companions lived the life proverbial among the craft, Van Anden

improved his time by thoroughly familiarizing himself with every branch of the business. Men with capital, whether in brain or pocket, need never fear to grapple with the world, and Van Anden wisely concluded that Poughkeepsie was a very good place to leave. Forming a partnership with a fellow-workman, Alexander Lee, in 1837 he purchased from Samuel G. Arnold the *Westchester Spy*, and settled at White Plains. The firm made money slowly, as was the custom in those days, but Van Anden thought in time he would achieve success even there, and was about extending his business area when he received a proposition from Mr. Arnold, who had removed to Brooklyn, to join him in publishing a Brooklyn paper, called the *Advocate*. He accepted the proposal, sold the *Spy* to his partner, and joined Mr. Arnold. The *Advocate* lived along, sometimes doing well, and other times doing worse, until 1840, when it was merged into a paper called the *Daily News*, under the same management. It could not afford the luxury of politics, but was conducted on the neutral policy until the necessities of the Whigs induced William A. Green to purchase it, as an organ of that party, in 1841, at which time the partnership of Arnold & Van Anden was dissolved, and the latter started the Brooklyn *Eagle* as a Democratic journal.

This, properly speaking, was the birthday of Mr. Van Anden. It was a day of small things indeed, and he who could have predicted the wondrous change and growth now patent to the eyes of all, would be regarded as a false prophet, a lunatic or an enthusiast. It is of course impossible, from this point on, to consider Mr. Van Anden without touching the *Eagle*. In a little room, with two or three cases and a small hand-press, we imagine him at work on his bantling. Early and late he toiled and struggled. Those were the days of trial, when everything was on his shoulders, and each day's issue was an experiment.

Mr. Richard A. Locke, the "Moon Hoax" man, was the first editor of the *Eagle*. He was a clever writer, but not much of an enterpriser. New York had no papers then of great enterprise, and

the evening journals of the day were very much what they are now, unposted hand-bills with a stereotyped heading. The consequence was that the *Eagle* was not a great pecuniary success. In point of fact, it was not a success in any sense of the term, except typographically. The heading of to-day is precisely like that of 1841; the type and general make-up are identical with those of its first impression. Through seasons of absolute adversity he has kept his skirts clean of abominations of any kind, leaving also to the "respectable" issues of the day a monopoly of the so-called medical advertisements which they find so profitable as to be irresistible. Brooklyn at that time was comparatively a small place. Farms occupied what is now the center of the city. Pearl Street was considered "the best place for investment." Lovers walked out of town for the purpose of a pleasant promenade through the poplar-shaded retreat of Love Lane. Rickety omnibuses jogged people up to the City Hall. And yet party lines were very strictly drawn, and party debates waxed very warm, time and again affording opportunities which the modern newspaper man would make much of, and the modern editor turn to good account. In those days the Whig citizens and the Loco-foco citizens of respectability did not deem it beneath their dignity to attend primaries, canvass districts, distribute circulars and tickets, stand at the polls, or do many details of political necessity which are now left to hired men, or to the unscrupulous loafers who attach themselves to all parties. But we looked in vain for any reports of meetings, any personal allusions, any editorial comment on the course of this, that, or the other man—matters which are now the merest fringe of the warp and woof of a well-made paper. And from this and other suggestive exponents, it is made evident that the *Eagle's* prosperity is the result of the growth and need of the city, rather than the outworking of any well-considered and skillfully-executed plan of its conductors. There were times when even Van Anden's courage fell, and his industry seemed to avail for naught. He was prompt with all his payments, and constant in attention to business. His job-

work was well done, and although he never solicited, he gradually received a large share of the orders which formerly went to New York. The Democratic party, too, gradually grew, and such assistance as it could give was thrown in the way of the *Eagle* and its job-office.

The death of Mr. Locke led to the engagement of Mr. Marsh as editor of the *Eagle*. He was, like his predecessor, a man of general rather than available ability, and paid his attention rather to his "leaders" than to the conduct of the paper.

At the time of Mr. Marsh's accession the paper needed the attention of a publisher and reporter quite as much as that of an editor. It is narrated somewhere that Mr. Van Anden startled the people of Brooklyn one day by a stroke of enterprise which was laudable, though now it would not be noticed. A fire took place in Fulton Street, not far from Cranberry Street, at eight o'clock in the morning. Van Anden heard of it, of course, and sent one of the boys from his office to the scene. He returned with a memorandum of the losses and insurance, which were published in the afternoon's *Eagle* and became the town-talk for a week.

In the course of years other men united with Mr. Van Anden. He, however, always supervised the entire matter after it was put upon the "hook." But careful and cautious as he was, he could not overcome the prejudice raised by McCloskey, a former assistant, against the paper, and steps were taken by a number of wealthy gentlemen to establish a newspaper which should be "loyal." Never had men of experience such an opportunity. The field was vast, the occasion meet, the time propitious. Mr. Van Anden shrewdly saw the effect which a well-conducted opposition must necessarily produce, and although he made ample preparation to meet it, he watched its coming with well-grounded apprehension.

Many a time has Mr. Van Anden laughed, with tears in his honest eyes, as he recounted his forebodings down to the very day on which the *Union* was to appear, and the enormous relief he experienced when he read its first issue. But unprofessional and jejune



as the new-comer proved, it produced one salutary effect. It taught Van Anden that there were other fields to occupy and other elements to consider, besides the simple growth of the city, which, though enough to insure the *pecuniary* success of his paper, was not all that was needed to make it a journalistic success. The war had begun and was progressing backwards in the good old backwoods style; the politicians were managing matters at Washington, and rascals made fortunes at every turn. Every man, woman, and child was interested in the news, and every journal scattered its circulation through the community at its pleasure. Extras sold rapidly, and contradictions were worth double the money. Trade, too, seemed to feel the unnatural excitement, and advertisements poured into the publication offices like water from a fountain.

No man is quicker to detect the drift of affairs than Mr. Van Anden, and when the first draft was made in Brooklyn, in successive editions he published the names of the fortunate men who secured prizes, and sent up his circulation many thousands. The intensity of the excitement was such that, during the procedure of the draft and the subsequent examinations, the daily issue of the *Eagle* exceeded that of the month before by some six or eight thousand, and kept it. The impetus given the *Eagle* at that time sent it far ahead of its old location, and put it in the very van of evening journalism. About this time an arrangement was effected by Mr. Kinsella, Mr. Van Anden approving, with Mr. Howard, then of the New York *Times*' staff, to organize a "City Department," consisting of a full *corps* of experienced reporters, who should be subject to his direction and furnish the news of the day in complete shape. The accession to the force necessitated some change in the interior office arrangements, and Mr. Van Anden, who by this time had amassed and saved a large fortune, expended liberally the wherewithal to provide better accommodations for the working force of his paper than can be found to-day in any evening newspaper establishment in the country. In fact, Mr. Van Anden's theory has ever been that a journal conducted in the best interests

of the city could not fail to be a great success, and so it proved. But aside from this essential cause, there were others bearing directly upon it.

When the Sanitary Fair was opened at the Academy of Music, the *Eagle* was enlarged, and signaled its first appearance in new dress by an elaborate and detailed description of every table, every article, every committee, and every project of the Fair. Day after day it devoted columns to the doings and developments of the occasion, aiding very materially in its success, to which also Mr. Van Anden contributed most liberally by cash and the use of his job-room and his advertising columns. The readers of the *Eagle* doubtless remember the "Dead-Beat" articles on the Sanitary Fair, but it is doubtful if they are aware of their history. As is customary at fairs, a little paper was published by several gentlemen, called the "*Drum-Beat*." The writer was at the Academy when the *Drum-Beat* first appeared, and after scanning its contents, remarked: "Well, that's more like a Dead-Beat than a Drum-Beat," and at once conceived the idea of writing an extravaganza from the Fair under the burlesque caption "Dead-Beat." It was done, and the rush for the edition was such that, at Mr. Van Anden's request, it was continued, and became a daily feature. When Mr. Howard left the *Eagle* Mr. John Stanton succeeded him as city editor, and continued the extravaganzas on divers subjects, merging the signature into his well-known "Corry O'Lannus," which remains to the present writing a salient feature of Saturday's issue.

But now that we present the paper at the summit of its prosperity, it may be well to estimate the effect of such marked success upon the proprietor. As a lad he was sober, courteous, generous, and industrious; as a man he was the same; when in the toils of doubtful struggle, he was the same; as doubt disappeared and hope loomed above the horizon, he was the same; and to-day, as he sits master of the situation, with everything that mortal man can desire of earth, he is but the more confirmed in every kindly instinct, every generous impulse, every honorable resolve. From time to

time his fellow-citizens, desirous of indicating their regard and respect for him as a man and a public-spirited resident, have tempted him with office, but he has resolutely and wisely refused. No newspaper-man can afford the luxury of office. It makes him an object of attack, loosens his grasp on the rein of control, lowers him in the estimation of the masses, and puts him under obligation to the men whom he ought to command. This may not have been the ground of Mr. Van Anden's refusal. He is eminently quiet in his habits and domestic in his tastes, caring little for society outside of his home-circle, and mingling but little with the busy world beyond the routine of daily business; and this very likely has had somewhat to do with his resolute seclusion from politics. And yet in all matters of general interest he is among the first to whom appeals are made, and among the generous his place is at the front. Mr. Van Anden has indeed achieved success, but as it has never been at the sacrifice of honor or the exercise of sharp dealing, neither has it been by the practice of selfishness, of stinginess, or a disregard of the wants and distresses of his fellows. If it were entirely proper to withdraw the veil which screens his private from his public life, a domestic picture would be disclosed embodying the elements of filial affection, brotherly regard, and generous impulse to an extent not often equaled.

One would imagine naturally that a life of such thorough and exacting toil as Mr. Van Anden leads would weary and exhaust him, but, although he withholds himself from society to a very large extent, he has never failed to make time for the advancement of public enterprise and the bearing of his fair proportion of public labor. To him personally and through his paper we are very largely indebted for the Prospect Park, which promises in time to eclipse the splendors of Central Park. The opposition encountered by the scheme was very great, but the common-sense arguments of the *Eagle* silenced all objections, and materially aided in its adoption. Had Mr. Van Anden been made at first, as he was subsequently, a Commissioner, it is likely there would have been

less well-grounded complaint about the expensive management. The Brooklyn Bridge project was agitated by Mr. Van Anden long before it assumed definite shape, and when public interest flagged he roused it again, and was still more persistent until the subscription papers were ready, and then, as is his custom, indorsing his words by his deeds, he put down one of the largest individual subscriptions upon the list. He is a director in the Mechanics' Bank, the Brooklyn Life Insurance Company, the Standard Life Insurance Company, and the Safe Deposit Company, being a Park Commissioner and an incorporator and director in the East River Bridge Company. He was upon the Democratic electoral ticket in 1865 and 1869—once defeated, once elected.

As business is business with Mr. Van Anden, it is fair to call him, in view of the many duties here indicated, a man of industry. And yet so systematic and orderly are his ways that he manages to throw off with ease a multiplicity of work, which would embarrass and break down a man of less method. Mr. Van Anden lives on Columbia Street, his venerable mother and widowed sister sharing his hospitality; and we doubt if a more attractive interior or a happier household can be found within the City of Churches.

In common with others, we have watched with interest the growing independence of the *Eagle* in social and political matters. This is due partly to the natural honesty of Mr. Van Anden's disposition, largely to the strong common sense of Mr. Kinsella, somewhat to infelicitous local party management, and a little to certain defeated aspirations.

As at present surrounded, Mr. Van Anden is one of the most fortunate of men. He has a superbly-fitted establishment, and a newspaper which ranks among the first evening dailies in the land. His editor-in-chief is characterized by strong common sense, and a desire to do what is best and most fair; his style is vigorous and his method practical; his ideas sound and his suggestions honest; as a friend he is sincere, as an opponent courteous, as an enemy implacable.



It would be difficult to point to a more rounded experience than that of Mr. Van Anden. He has passed the meridian of a stormy life, and stands now upon the eminence of honorable success. Looking back, we doubt if he can discover the trace of an unfair bargain, an ungenerous act. His family love him, his companions and subordinates are greatly attached to him, his neighbors respect and his fellow-citizens honor him. He has conducted his business, from the day of small attempts, through years of doubtful struggle, past the rocks of danger, down to the present hours of peace and prosperity. He has made easy and happy the latter days of his revered mother, and provided places of rest and enjoyment for others dear and near to him. His name is known in the public places as that of an honorable man, and his influence is for the best interests of his city and land.

Into that privacy which is the privilege of every individual, it is not our province here to enter, but there is a life led by the subject of this hasty sketch, which may not here be written, the outcroppings of which are gentle consideration to the poor and humble, generosity and self-sacrifice in the interests of the less prosperous, courtesy and good-will toward all mankind. And that it may be long ere that branch of Mr. Van Anden's life is properly spoken of, is the cordial wish of all who know him.









*S. H. J. M. W.*

## H. I. KIMBALL.



S a representative of legitimate and enlightened enterprise, and an exponent of modern progress, a progress whose beneficent results enhance public good as well as individual prosperity, a progress whose aim and ultimatum accept nothing short of abundant success, Mr. H. I. Kimball of Georgia is entitled to marked pre-eminence.

He is the fifth son of Mr. Peter Kimball ; was born in Oxford county, Maine, A.D., 1832. In early life he learned the carriage maker's trade, and at the age of 19 was called to take charge of one of the most extensive carriage manufactories in the United States. At the age of 21, the firm evidenced their appreciation of his executive and financial ability, by admitting him to full partnership. The business of this establishment being principally with the South, it was entirely broken up by the war, and resulted in the loss, by Mr. Kimball, of his entire estate, and the business passed into other hands. In no wise discouraged, and having the spirit of a man not willing to become a servant in his own house, he left the carriage business, and served as superintendent of a Mining Company in Colorado, until the Spring of 1865. Failing in health, he left Colorado, and became interested with Mr. George M. Pullman, and established the sleeping car lines throughout the South, making his headquarters at Atlanta, Ga., where in a very few months he completely regained his former vigorous health. Being a man of original ideas and forethought, as well as one of remarkable perseverance and executive ability, he became largely interested in the business welfare and social advancement generally of his adopted city and State.

In the progress of reconstruction, the Constitutional Convention



of Georgia, which met at Atlanta, designated that place as the capital of the State. Mr. Kimball, seeing the importance of immediately providing a suitable capitol building in order that the seat of government might be permanently located in Atlanta, purchased the property known as the Atlanta Opera House (which had been abandoned by the projectors, when only the walls were up), and commenced the erection of a State House on his individual account and responsibility; and in less than five months the unsightly structure was converted into a magnificent edifice, being finished and furnished in a manner unsurpassed by any State capitol in the Union. Notwithstanding the many difficulties he had to encounter, not only in procuring the labor and material for this work, but, to overcome the prejudices of the people, day and night found him at his post, with his men, acting as architect and leader in the various parts, determined to accomplish his object. The result was, the building was completed and dedicated for the purpose intended on the very day he had appointed four months previous.

Early in the year of 1870, the city of Atlanta, having contracted with the State Agricultural Society of Georgia for the preparation of grounds and buildings, in which the Exposition of that year should be held, called upon the indefatigable Kimball, and through his skill, ability, and financial aid, in the short space of five months, a wilderness of nearly sixty acres in extent was converted into a magnificent pleasure park, with all the necessary buildings, race-tracks, lakes, drives, etc., etc., pronounced one of the finest and best adapted for the purpose, extant.

Scarcely had the contract been concluded, which was to insure the preparation of the grounds in a becoming style for the State Fair, when, appreciating another necessity, with characteristic promptness and daring he resolved to overcome it, and on Saturday, March 26, he purchased the site of the old "Atlanta Hotel;" the following Monday morning ground was broken for the largest and finest hotel south of New York city, at which time he announced that the building would be completed and ready for the reception

of guests on the 17th of October following. As startling and almost incredible as this announcement seemed, even to the people of Atlanta, the promise was made good, and "The H. I. Kimball House" dates the idea which gave it birth, and the banquet which hailed its opening within less than seven months time. This magnificent building is about the size of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, with a frontage of 210 feet, 165 feet deep, six stories high, containing 350 rooms, elegantly finished and faultlessly furnished; and it stands to-day, a splendid monument to the brilliant conception and grand constructive genius, no less than to the unparalleled and untiring energy of him whose name it deservedly bears.

Mr. Kimball is intimately identified with other important enterprises in the South, having built over 100 miles of railway during the past year; and was in no small degree instrumental in rearing the magnificent railroad depot which graces the city of Atlanta.

In whatever community he resides, he wins the attention and admiration of the people. He has often had offers of high political place and power, but declined all such, and studiously avoided any mingling, save as a private citizen, in the political issues of the day.

Although Mr. Kimball has, by an untiring energy and remarkable ability, already amassed a competency of more than half a million of dollars, it is not to be expected that he will rest content in his onward march of prosperity. Still in the vigor of manhood, encouraged by past success, and resolved on future triumphs, it is but reasonable to predict that he will attain a degree of wealth and honor sufficient to gratify any laudable ambition, coupled with that satisfaction which emanates from a consciousness of doing good in proportion to increasing ability.

In personal appearance, Mr. Kimball is prepossessing, and seems the embodiment of health and good cheer, without approaching obesity. He is pleasant and unaffected in manner, entertaining in conversation, frank and generous with all whom he encounters in business or social intercourse. With the manifold cares of his various enterprises to command his attention, he is nevertheless

always genial and pleasant, devoting much of his time to his family, and frequently visiting his aged parents. Using the Bible for his guide, he is efficient in church and Sabbath-school, and sustain an unblemished Christian character, with mental faculties and physical resources unimpaired by excesses of any kind.

Not yet thirty-nine years of age, he cannot be said to have reached the prime of life, and certainly gives every promise of a brilliant future and a long career of usefulness before him.

Well may Georgia, his adopted State, be proud of such a citizen!





Robert P. L. L.



## RUFUS BROWN BULLOCK,

GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA.



THE subject of this sketch was born in the town of Bethlehem, in the County of Albany, State of New York, on the 28th day of March, 1834, and is the oldest son of Volkert Veeder Bullock and Jane Eliza Bullock.

His grandfather on his father's side, Mr. Joseph Bullock, came from Yorkshire, England, prior to the Revolution, purchased, settled, and cultivated large tracts of land in Albany and adjoining counties, and married Margaret Veeder, of Schenectady, one of the old original Dutch, or Knickerbocker, families that settled about the headwaters of the Hudson at the time of the grants to the Van Rensselaers. His grandfather on the mother's side was Mr. Rufus Brown, for many years a wealthy and enterprising merchant of Albany, and who married Cornelia McClellan, a lady of Scotch-Irish descent.

When the subject of our sketch was seven years of age his parents removed to Orleans County, in Western New York, where they reside at the present time. At the age of fifteen he graduated at the Albion Academy, and then entered a country-store as clerk, where he remained for one year.

He then engaged actively in the construction and opening of the House Printing-Telegraph line between New York, Albany, and Buffalo, and continued in the pursuit of this calling, having invented and introduced many important improvements in the construction and operation of telegraphs, until the year 1856, when he engaged with Professor Hughes in developing and bringing into notice the Hughes system of Printing-Telegraph, and opened an opposition line in connection with the then American Telegraph Company,

between New York and Philadelphia. It was over this wire and with these instruments, under the management of the subject of our sketch, that the first game of chess was played by telegraph, being a match-game between the celebrated Chess Clubs of Philadelphia and New York.

His services were soon after sought and secured by the managers of the Adams Express Company, and he removed to the South, making his headquarters at Augusta, Georgia, where he has since made his home, and has established a reputation as a thorough-going, practical business man, and has acquired a competency.

During the war he remained in the South, having general charge of the Express service. Soon after the close of the war, he, together with other gentlemen connected with the Express Company, organized and established one of the first national banks which were organized in the State, and became one of its directors.

After the failure of President Johnson's efforts at reconstruction, and the presentation by Congress of its reconstruction policy, Mr. Bullock accepted the nomination as one of the delegates from his district to a constitutional convention to frame a constitution for the State. Some difficulty having arisen between the military commander and the then Governor of the State, which necessitated his removal by military order, the Constitutional Convention, with great unanimity—by nearly a three-fourths vote of all its members—recommended the name of Mr. Bullock to the military commander for appointment as provisional governor. He participated actively and industriously in the deliberations of the Convention, and the Constitution of the State, which is admitted by all to be one of the most conservative and desirable of any that were framed by the Constitutional Conventions in the Southern States, bears many marks of his sagacity and practical ability.

Upon the completion of the Constitution and the organization of a party to go before the people in its support and seeking its ratification, Mr. Bullock was nominated by acclamation as the reconstruction or Republican candidate for governor of the State, and

was elected by over 8,000 majority, although the opposition took an active part in the contest, led by that distinguished soldier, ex-Lieut.-General John B. Gordon of the C. S. A.

In his administration of the State's affairs since his inauguration, much discussion over his official acts and much violent denunciation has occurred on account of the Legislature having expelled from its body the colored members who were elected to it, and the firm stand taken by the Governor in demanding that Congress should take such action as was necessary to secure the restoration of the expelled members. The action desired by the Governor was, upon the recommendation of President Grant, taken by Congress in December, 1869, and the Legislature of the State was organized by the restoration of its colored members, and the exclusion of ineligible members, in January, 1870.

His public papers and documents give evidence more of a determined purpose to accomplish practical results, than of a desire to attain distinction as a political theorist. His administration has been marked by a rapid and permanent improvement of the State's material interests, more miles of railroad having been constructed since his inauguration than during any period of ten years before the war; and, with one or two exceptions, the roads now in operation in the State are paying good dividends to the stockholders, and the taxable value of the property within the State has very largely increased. A free-school system is being established and extended, and every measure which looks to the improvement of the people, and the development of the State's resources, seems to meet with the hearty, earnest, and industrious support of Governor Bullock.

The relatives and kinsmen of Governor Bullock are among the foremost men of New York State and of the country, yet he has ever relied upon his own exertions, and the friends whom he has made by his own position and abilities, and is therefore one of the self-made men of America.









*Gen W. Quintan*

## GEORGE W. QUINTARD.



GEORGE W. QUINTARD was born in Stanford, Conn., on the 22d of April, 1822. His father, Isaac Quintard, and his progenitors, had resided in that town for several generations, and were distinguished for probity and intelligence. After receiving the usual education given in the public schools of the town, the subject of this sketch, at the age of fifteen, followed the custom of most bright boys of Connecticut, and came, in quest of fortune, to New York. Finding employment in one of the leading houses in the grocery trade, he followed that calling with industry and fidelity for five or six years, after which he embarked in business on his own account, and continued in it for four years.

In 1847, being then only twenty-five years of age, he became one of the firm of T. F. Secor & Co., in the Morgan Iron Works, of New York, and three years later, in 1850, became a co-proprietor of that large establishment, with Charles Morgan, whose daughter he married, and who then, as now, was one of the leading and most opulent ship-owners and merchants of the city.

In 1852, Mr. Quintard assumed the control, and from that time up to the year 1857, with the exception of two years, was the sole manager of the works, which for the volume of its business, and the high repute it bore, was second in extent to no other similar manufacturing concern in the country. During the eventful period of the war, Mr. Quintard enjoyed in the highest possible degree the confidence of the government at Washington. He was often consulted by the higher officials of the Navy Department in reference to the construction of steam vessels of war, and built and sold to the government a larger number of those vessels than was built by any other private establishment. Indeed so honorably con-

spicuous had become the reputation of the Morgan Iron Works, that when, in 1863, the Italian Government determined to build two first-class frigates in this city, Mr. Quintard was selected to construct the engines for the *Re de Italia*.

Between the years 1861 and 1864, Mr. Quintard built for the United States Government the engines for the following war steamers:

Onondaga,	Ammonoosuc,
Wachuset,	Chippewa,
Seminole,	Kathadin,
Muscoota,	Ascutuey,
Chenango,	Idaho,
Ticonderoga,	Tioga.
Kinneo.	

And for ocean steamers, in the merchant service, engines for the following:

Golden Rule,	General Barnes,
Herman Livingston,	Vera Cruz,
Manhattan,	Rapidan,
Raleigh,	Hatteras,
Albemarle,	Eastern Queen,
Cambridge,	Continental,
City of Hartford,	Fah-Kee (China),
Everglade,	Cosmopolitan,
Mississippi,	Orizaba,
Charles Morgan,	Nautilus,
Granite State,	Golden Age,
San Francisco,	George Law,
Fulton,	Yangsee, (China),
Peiho, (China),	De Soto,
Bienville,	Peruano,
W. G. Hawes,	Ocean Queen,

Flushing,	New Brunswick,
Island Home,	Commonwealth,
Alabama,	Villa Clara.

Also the Engines for the following steamers on the Western Lakes—steamers that in their day were of dimensions and fitted up with appointments not surpassed by those of any of the steamers on the North River or elsewhere :

Southern Michigan,	Northern Indiana,
Great Metropolis,	Queen City.

In 1867, Mr. Quintard disposed of his interest in the Morgan Iron Works to Mr. John Roach, and became principal proprietor and president of the New York and Charleston Steamship Company, and still continues at the head of that corporation.

In 1869, he became interested in the Quintard Iron Works, an extensive establishment for the manufacture of steam engines and machinery, his principal associate in the proprietorship being James Murphy, Esq., long and favorably known as one of the prominent and most successful men in that particular branch of industry, Mr. Murphy's son being also a member of the firm.

Few men of his years have been participants in works of greater magnitude than Mr. Quintard, while at the same time few have been more active in institutions of practical benevolence.

Besides the presidency of two principal companies last above named, Mr. Quintard, is a director in the Manhattan Life Insurance Company of New York; director in the Metropolitan Savings Bank, and Butchers and Drovers Bank; director in the Lorrillard, and Adriatic Fire Insurance Companies; director in the Great Southern Steamship Company, (Livingston, Fox & Co.); president of the New England and Nova Scotia Steamship Company, (Portland to Halifax), Vice-president of the Eleventh Ward Bank, and trustee in the Eastern Dispensary; and in each of these corporations takes an active and prominent part.





## REV. T. DE WITT TALMAGE

BY J. ALEXANDER PATTEN.



REV. T. DE WITT TALMAGE was born near Bound Brook, New Jersey, January 7, 1832. He is the son of David Talmage, who at one time was sheriff of Somerset County. Four brothers of this family are in the ministry, viz.: James R. Talmage, D. D.; John V. N. Talmage, D. D., distinguished missionary in China; Goyn Talmage, and T. De Witt Talmage. Another brother was the late Daniel Talmage, well-known rice merchant of New York, and one of the originators of the Native American party and the order of United Americans. The subject of our notice graduated at the University of the City of New York in 1853, and at the Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, in 1856. During the summer of the same year he was called to Belleville, New York, where he was duly ordained and installed. He remained in this position about three years, when, in 1859, he was called to the Second Reformed Church of Philadelphia, where he labored seven years. From his earliest appearance in the pulpit he commanded marked public attention. He showed himself to be a man of original thought, and an orator of no mean ability. Hence crowds flocked to hear him, and his congregation grew in numbers and influence. At a period when his church in Philadelphia was in an extremely flourishing condition, he was invited to the pastorate of the Central Presbyterian Church, located on Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, which was somewhat feeble and disorganized. He accepted, and was installed in April, 1869.

The Central Presbyterian Church was at an earlier date located in Willoughby street, where for some time it was in charge of the

Rev. Mr. Duffield. On the 13th of February, 1851, the Rev. Dr. J. Edson Rockwell was installed as the pastor, and thus remained for some fourteen years, when he accepted a call to a Presbyterian Church on Staten Island. The congregation, after many trials, in which they were continually called upon to appreciate the cheerful hope and untiring energy of Dr. Rockwell, were enabled to build an edifice in Schermerhorn Street, seating one thousand people, which was dedicated December 10th, 1854. The cost of the whole property was about thirty-four thousand dollars, of which an indebtedness of twelve thousand five hundred dollars remained until 1863, when it was paid. When Dr. Rockwell entered upon his duties the congregation numbered only one hundred and twenty members, whereas in 1864 there were four hundred and sixty members. During the same time nearly six hundred joined the church, three hundred of whom were admitted on profession of faith.

When Mr. Talmage came, in 1869, but a small portion of this once large congregation remained. He has preached only one year, and the church is now crowded at every service beyond its utmost capacity. All the pews have been taken at a large increase of the rentals, and the pastor is paid the large salary of seven thousand dollars. Recently, the church edifice has been sold for a synagogue, and preparations are now making to erect a large temporary structure for the use of the congregation. The site selected is six lots on Schermerhorn Street. The church will be one hundred and fifty feet front by one hundred feet deep, and it will seat three thousand people. It will be plain but substantial, and within is to be constructed on the amphitheatre plan. The organ used in the Coliseum in Boston during the Musical Peace Jubilee of 1869, one of the finest instruments ever made, has been purchased, and in the new church will be under the charge of the eminent organist, George W. Morgan. The building will be used for concerts and other appropriate public purposes, and promises to be another novel attraction of Brooklyn. Nearly two hundred persons have become members during the last year. There are five or six hundred children in the

regular Sunday-school, and a Missionary school in another part of the city is also well attended.

Mr. Talmage has induced his congregation to consent that it shall be a *free* church. He states that he is utterly opposed to the present system upon which most churches are conducted of high rents for the pews, and utter unconcern for the accommodation of those who cannot pay them. As a student of human nature, and as a believer in the influence of Christian teachings, he is confident that a church which is really free will thrive more abundantly on the voluntary offerings of God's people than by the method generally adopted. He thinks that one system appeals to the baser nature, while the other will develop generous and Christian impulses. Hence, out of all the pews in the vast structure of the Central congregation, not one is to be sold or rented. The men of wealth, or in modest circumstances, and the poor, are all to have equal rights in pews, and the expenses of the church are to be borne by subscription, and the Sunday collections. Priority of application is to be the only rule regulating the selection, and a pew once taken can be held as long as the occupant desires it. This will be, in fact, an experiment of the free-pew system on the most extensive scale ever attempted, and we have no doubt it will meet with entire success.

Mr. Talmage has lectured throughout the country with great success, having been everywhere received by crowded audiences. Among his lectures may be named "The New Life of the Nation," "Grumblers," "Our New House," and "The Bright Side of Things." He is also a contributor to many of the periodicals. Exceedingly agreeable sketches from his pen have appeared in the *New York Weekly, Hearth and Home, Hours at Home*, and in the *New York Independent*.

Mr. Talmage is above the medium height, and well proportioned. His frame is large, but he is naturally rather thin in flesh. His head is of the average size, with marked evidence of intellectual power. He has light eyes and a sandy complexion. Looking into his face, you are struck with its amiability and cheerfulness. In

conversation it is always bright with animation, and at all times is a perfect mirror of his emotions. His eyes are clear, tender, and observing, while his tone and manners are gentle and warm in the extreme. An invariable self-reliance, and calmness, and judgment in all his proceedings give him dignity and self-possession, but in these particulars there is nothing affected or studied about him. He is plain and unostentatious in his appearance and bearing, and hence mingles freely with his fellow-men. His warmth in manners and his genial flow of conversation place even the stranger at once on the most agreeable terms with him. In truth, his conversational powers are little less than fascinating. He is full of noble sentiments, poetry and humor. He looks at life with his "eyes and ears wide open," and he discusses both men and topics with comprehensiveness and originality. He is never ashamed to show his feelings, and never afraid to declare his opinions. Independent, outspoken, and yet generous, tender, and sympathetic, he presents, in his own disposition, the most manly and at the same time the most beautiful traits that ever adorn human character. In social life he is all vivacity, all goodness and all himself. Whether it be eccentricity, or whether it be simply a larger share of rich, exuberant animal spirits than most ministers possess, certain it is that the Rev. T. De Witt Talmage is more real and true to a genuine human nature in social life than any of his contemporaries. He seems to go down into his own heart for a gushing, abundant spring of fellowship and love, which washes out channels to every other heart. He follows no conventional rules, he is guided by no example, but, as we have stated, he is himself. This is not because he is indifferent to the force of these rules and examples, but because he acts from a quick, impulsive, and original nature of his own. When in the glee and enthusiasm of the moment at a church festival, he exclaimed that he felt "like the morning star." It was not that his taste induced him to take his illustration from negro minstrelsy, but, acting on the impulse of the moment, he humorously seized upon a popular saying to express the state of



his own feelings. Men of stiff propriety and of starched dignity would not do or say many things that he does every day. With him, however, a free, honest, cheerful heart is much more cultivated, and it is given, impulsive and erratic as it often is, full influence and control over his actions and sentiments.

As a preacher, he has even more striking peculiarities. He is an original, terse, bold, and elegant writer, and a fluent, impassioned speaker. He has the most complete command of language, which takes forms of expression which are not less new than graphic and impressive. His thought takes a wide range on every subject, and they are sudden in their changes from the solemn and sublime to the humorous and odd. At one time he will indulge in a strain of the most touching pathos, and then suddenly introduce some humorous and grotesque illustration that will almost set the audience in a roar. His language is chaste and beautiful in the expression of the more sentimental passages, and it is most pungent and overwhelming in criticism and denunciation. He has sarcasm, irony, and ridicule at his tongue's end, not less than words of exquisite poetic beauty and tenderness. All of this is so mingled together, and so altered in surprises, that his audience find themselves spell-bound by the novelty of style as well as the eloquence of the orator. His voice is powerful and flexible. He can in an instant change it from tones that ring out to the capacity of the largest building to accents that float in soft whispers to the ear. His gesticulation is somewhat marvellous. There is not a sentence that he has not some gesture of the hand, the arms, the head, or the body to illustrate and enforce, and still it is all done with such appropriateness and gracefulness that it adds immensely to the effectiveness of his oratory. His face, too, has great mobility, and in the changing expressions of eye, mouth, and brow, is a vivid accompaniment to his fervent words.

Many persons find it difficult to form a favorable opinion in regard to Mr. Talmage's merits as a preacher. His style is so eccentric and original that some consider it mere sensational trash in



language and buffoonery in action. But this is a harsh and unjust judgment. To be sure, he puts language in unusual forms, and deals in the comic to a large degree; but no preacher of the day can give a keener dissection of human motives, or make a more masterly and eloquent Christian appeal. A half-hour of his earnest, original discussion will give you suggestions which will not leave you for many a day thereafter. As a man, he is somewhat of an oddity; but as a preacher, he is full of the spirit of God, and every talent and every purpose is devoted to the work for the regeneration of fallen man. If he makes you smile and weep in a breath, if he has simple sayings and whimsical ways, he is also a ripe scholar, a clear-headed philosopher, and a Christian orator. He has qualifications which enable him to reach and control the great popular heart, and his ministry is consequently one of the most marked success.

## HON. N. M. BECKWITH,

COMMISSIONER-GENERAL FOR THE UNITED STATES AT THE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION AT PARIS, 1867.



R. N. M. BECKWITH is a native of Madison County, in the State of New York, and son of the late Judge Beckwith, of that county, one of the early settlers of the town and village of Cazenovia. His eldest son, the late Dr. Beckwith, was educated in New England, and his third son, Brevet Brigadier-General E. G. Beckwith, graduated at West Point, served with distinction through the Mexican war, and the war of the Rebellion, and continues in the public service.

The second son (the subject of the following remarks) was destined for mercantile pursuits, and, after completing his academic studies, commenced his career in Auburn, New York.

But having at that time no influential commercial connections, and being desirous of acquiring a more extended knowledge of business, he subsequently spent several years traveling and residing in different countries in Europe and also in America. The information thus acquired, and connections thus formed, were turned to account finally in New York, where he engaged in commerce with the British Colonies, Europe, the West Indies, and South America.

There was nothing unusual in the slow growth and steady prosperity of his business, which at the end of fifteen years enabled him to retire. On the contrary, it is only another instance of the almost uniform success of the young men who come from the country with vigorous health and resolution, and who take pains to understand their business, and pursue it with judgment and diligence, resisting the temptations of speculation, and declining operations they do not thoroughly understand.

Retaining fondness for travel, Mr. Beckwith repaired with his family to Europe in 1851, where he spent a number of years, principally in Germany and France, and was finally induced by his relatives, who had embarked extensively in business in the East, to enter again into active pursuits.

But not to interrupt the studies of his sons, and wishing to have them with him, he engaged teachers to accompany them, and after visiting Egypt and India, settled in China, where he became for several years the managing partner of the ancient American house of Russell & Co., extensively engaged in commerce with America, Europe, and Australia, and in steam navigation on the seas and rivers of China.

His previous good fortune did not desert him in this new field, and when the time arrived for his sons to enter upon their professional studies in the industrial arts and sciences, he returned with them to Europe, where he had the gratification of seeing them graduate in due time first and third in the *Ecole Impériale Centrale*, the great school for civil engineers in Paris.

It will be remembered that the invitation of the French government to the government of the United States to participate in the International Exposition of 1867 reached Washington during the great campaign of Grant and Sherman, which occupied every mind, and rendered it impossible to attract public attention to the proposed exhibition.

But the confidence felt in the result of those campaigns, and in the approaching termination of the war, made it desirable to defer the question of the exhibition for future consideration. It was not unlikely that within six months the war would be ended, and as there would then remain a year and a half in which to prepare for the exhibition, it might still be possible for the United States to take part in it. The minister of the United States then in Paris anticipated in this view, and, though without authority to make any definite engagements on the subject with the French government, was extremely anxious to keep the matter open ; and thinking

the experience and business habits of Mr. Beckwith, his familiarity with previous exhibitions, and his knowledge of French methods and usages, and local acquaintance, would be serviceable, solicited his assistance.

Mr. Beckwith was then preparing to return to the United States, and it was not convenient for him to make engagements extending over a period of at least two years; but thinking the matter of considerable importance, and believing that the government and people of the United States would have a lively desire to co-operate in the exhibition after the happy termination of the war, showing that their energy and enterprise were undiminished, consented to undertake the labor, stipulating only that his services, being intended for the public benefit, should be gratuitous.

The delays which occurred in the action and decision of Congress, and the embarrassments which arose from the consequent accumulation of business at the last moment, are very generally known. It is also known that these difficulties were surmounted; that the products of the United States were finally brought into fair comparison with those of other countries; that the verdicts and awards of the international juries placed the products of the United States in advance of similar products from all other countries, with the exception of France, and that the assiduity, zeal, and great labor of the Commissioner-General contributed largely to these happy results.

In acknowledgment of the ability displayed in the fulfillment of this mission, the Emperor Napoleon conferred upon Mr. Beckwith the rank and cross of Officer of Legion of Honor.

The labors of the commissioners resulted in the production of six volumes of reports on the exhibition, with numerous drawings and illustrations, which have been published by order of the Senate.

The report of the Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State, in presenting these volumes to Congress, forms the introductory chapter, and refers to the services of the Commissioner-General as follows:

"Accepting the onerous duties of that office, without compensation, Mr. Beckwith entered upon them with an activity, zeal, intelligence, and executive ability to which, with the assistance of other commissioners, is mainly due the measure of success that, notwithstanding unlooked-for and frequent impediments, was attained by the United States Section in the competition for awards and in the instruction and general benefits derived by the nation from the Exposition.

"Under these circumstances I perform a pleasing duty in placing on record the grateful acknowledgments of this Department, and I venture to express a hope that Congress will signify in some public manner its sense of services of a most responsible and arduous character, rendered not only without compensation, but involving many expenses incidental to the position which would not otherwise have been imposed upon Mr. Beckwith.

"For an exposition of the nature of these duties and the manner in which they were discharged, and for many terse philosophical commentaries incident to them, I refer with pleasure to the appended extracts from the official correspondence of the Commissioner-General with the Department.

"In order to present a comprehensive and connected view of the progress of the executive administration of the Exposition intrusted by the Department to the Commissioner-General, as well as to show the difficulties and the nature and details of the labor required for the proper conduct of a participation of the country in such great international displays, I present extended selections from the official correspondence of the Commissioner-General and others, which, while giving a historical epitome of the relation sustained by the United States to the whole Exposition, will serve as a general introduction to the valuable series of special reports by the United States Commissioners and scientific experts. These reports constitute a valuable portion of the fruits of the participation in the Exposition by the United States, and present to the people of this country much useful and instructive information concerning the practical arts, and constitute a novel and profitable class of public documents, the tendency of which will be to expand and improve manufactures and arts, and increase the application of scientific principles and discoveries, which, so far as they cheapen the transformation of raw materials for the use of man, or improve their quality, increase the wealth of the nation and lighten the burdens of taxation."

Mr. Beckwith's distinguished success is due not more to his unconquerable energy than to an unflinching integrity manifested in all the relations of life. His word is proverbially as good as his bond. He has won fortune and position by persistent and steady effort. By patient industry and the pursuit of an honest, straightforward course, he has battled with the disadvantages and checks of business men. Few men have overcome greater obstacles, none are more worthy of achieved success.







*Sidney Dillon*

## SIDNEY DILLON.

BY S. SEYMOUR.



THE great industrial interests of our country have become so diversified in their character, and each particular interest is so capable of being sub-divided and organized into different branches and departments, each requiring at its head an order of talent differing in degree and character from that required for the others, that a field of almost unlimited extent is always open for the exercise and development of every variety of genius and ability possessed by our "Men of Progress."

Take as an example the great and almost controlling interest represented by the internal improvements of our country, some of which have been inaugurated and controlled by the General government, others by our State governments, others again by our Municipalities, and others by private corporations or individual capitalists. Here the civil engineer first enters the field for the purpose of ascertaining and reporting upon the practicability of the scheme, its probable cost, and the inducements offered by, or advantages to be derived from its construction. The financier then either enlists or combines the necessary amount of capital; and then the contractor undertakes the execution of the work, which in its turn, affords employment for almost all the varieties of mechanical and common labor to be found in the country.

The latter, or contracting branch of this great industry, has brought into exercise a species of talent, and a degree of skill, energy, and general ability which is not surpassed by this or any other of the great and diversified interests which now occupy the attention of our most active and enterprising business men. Very many of our most wealthy and prominent citizens have commenced

their business experiences, either as common laborers, mechanics or contractors upon the canals and railroads of the country. It is to this class that Mr. Sidney Dillon belongs.

Mr. Dillon's grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and his father was a farmer in Montgomery county, New York. Sidney Dillon was born in the town of Northampton, Montgomery County, State of New York, on the 7th of May, 1812.

The entire life of Mr. Dillon may be said to have been devoted to internal improvements. From an errand boy upon the first railroad that was constructed in his native State, to a contractor for the construction and equipment of the largest and most important lines of railroads in the United States, he has passed through all the intermediate stages of experience, until he has become one of the most, if not actually the most, experienced and best educated of the railroad men in the United States and perhaps in the world.

In his early youth, Mr. Dillon was employed as errand boy on the Mohawk and Hudson Railroad, extending from Albany to Schenectady. After that work was completed he was employed in the same capacity upon the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad. He was then employed by the firm of Jonathan Crane and John T. Clark, as foreman or overseer, upon a contract which they had taken at Sharon, on the Boston and Providence Railroad; and he, together with a few other selected men were obliged to travel by wagon, carrying their own provisions with them, a distance of about two hundred and twenty miles, from Schenectady to Sharon, in order to commence the work. He remained upon this road about two years, until it was finished. He was then employed by the celebrated firm of Carmichael, Fairbanks & Otis, as foreman and manager upon the Stonington Railroad, where he remained until the work was completed, after which he was employed by the same contractors to take charge of some heavy rock work near Charlton, on the Western Railroad of Massachusetts.

While engaged in the capacity of overseer upon the Western Railroad, his tact and judgment in the management of work

attracted the attention of Capt. W. H. Swift, the Engineer in charge, and he invited him to attend the next letting upon the road and put in a proposition for work on his own account, promising him that his bid would be considered as favorably as those of the best contractors on the line.

Mr. Dillon attended the next letting as requested, but having only a limited amount of capital, and feeling somewhat timid, put in a proposition for only a single section, which was afterward allotted to him near Hindsdale, upon the western end of the road between Washington and the State line of New York.

This was the commencement of Mr. Dillon's career as a contractor,—and his prompt completion of that work in 1840, and his subsequent success as a contractor upon a large scale, afford abundant evidence of the foresight evinced by Captain Swift in selecting him from the ranks, as it were, and placing him in a position where his skill in organizing labor, his sound judgment, and great energy of character could be exercised to much greater advantage for himself, as well as for the railroad companies upon whose works he was employed.

After completing his work upon the Western Railroad, he took a heavy contract upon the Troy and Schenectady Railroad, embracing the Clay hill about two miles from West Troy. Here he first used a steam excavator, which he afterwards employed most successfully on all his heavy jobs.

At about this time the firm of Boody, Ross and Dillon took the contract for constructing the Hartford and Springfield Railroad, about twenty-six miles in length, for which they agreed to take a portion of their pay in the stock of the company. After completing this contract, the same firm took a contract for six miles of the Cheshire Railroad of Vermont, and Mr. Dillon took a contract individually for four miles of the same road. He also at the same time contracted in his own name for about ten miles of heavy work on the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad. Soon afterward the firm of Dillon and Pratt took a contract for about



seven miles of the Rutland and Burlington Railroad, near Rutland, Vermont.

Having successfully completed all the above contracts, the firm of Boody, Ross and Dillon took a contract for constructing the Central Railroad of New Jersey, from Whitehouse to Easton, a distance of twenty-nine miles: and agreed to take their entire pay in the stock and bonds of the railroad company; although some of this work was very heavy, it was completed, by the aid of steam excavators, in two years. While engaged in this work the same firm took a contract for widening twenty miles of the Morris Canal, which Mr. Dillon attended to in person, completing it in the short space of three months. Mr. Dillon then took a contract for constructing the Boston and New York Central Railroad. But after completing thirty miles of the road, the company failed, and Mr. Dillon was obliged to attach and sell the rolling stock of the road, just as a train was leaving Boston, in order to obtain a portion of his pay.

Mr. Dillon and associates then took a contract for constructing a large portion of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, extending from Lock Haven westward about one hundred miles, of which contract Mr. Dillon was the general manager. Before its completion the railroad company became short of funds, and the work was afterwards finished by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

Then the firm of Dillon, Clyde and Chapman took a contract for filling up the high trestle work on the Erie and Cleveland Railroad, near Gerard, Penn., which embraced about one million cubic yards of embankment.

Mr. Dillon then returned to the Central Railroad of New Jersey, and took a contract for filling in the large trestle works which had originally been constructed upon that road, with solid masonry and embankments. He also constructed the South Branch of that railroad, extending from Somerville to Flemington, New Jersey, and also four or five miles of the Morris and Essex railroad near Washington.

About this time, 1865, Mr. Dillon became largely interested in the construction and management of the Union Pacific Railroad, of which company he is still an active and prominent director.

During the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, Mr. Dillon and associates also took contracts for constructing a double track upon the Morris and Essex Railroad, and also upon the Central Railroad of New Jersey, both of which are now completed. He also became interested with Mr. John I. Blair, in one or two railroads in Iowa.

In 1868, Mr. Dillon took a contract for constructing about seventy miles of the Boston, Hartford and Erie Railroad, extending from Waterbury, Conn., to Fishkill, New York. When this work was about two thirds completed, the company were obliged to suspend for want of funds, and the contract is still uncompleted.

In 1869, Mr. Dillon and associates, took a contract for constructing about fifty miles of the New Orleans, Mobile and Chatanooga Railroad, which is now nearly finished. They are now also building the Connecticut Valley Railroad, extending about forty miles, from Hartford to Long Island Sound.

Mr. Dillon is also largely interested in the Chillicothe, Council Bluffs and Omaha Railroad, the Canada Southern Railroad, extending from Buffalo to the St. Clair river, two hundred and eighty miles, and the Patterson Branch of the Morris and Essex Railroad, all of which are now in process of construction.

To sum up Mr. Dillon's experience as a contractor, to the present time, we may therefore state, that he has been engaged on about thirty public works in different parts of the United States and Canadas, that the different works will make up an aggregate of at least two thousand five hundred miles in length, and that the different contracts in which he has been and is now interested, amount in the aggregate to about seventy-five million dollars.

This simple statement of facts, it is believed, will fully sustain the original proposition, that Sidney Dillon now stands foremost

in rank as a successful and experienced contractor upon the public works of the United States, if not in the world.

During the year 1867, Mr. Dillon filled the position of president of the Central Railway of New Jersey, of which he was then vice-president and is still director, during the absence of the president, Mr. Johnson, in Europe.

From his first connection with the Union Pacific Railroad, until its final completion, in the spring of 1869, and indeed up to the present time, Mr. Dillon has devoted a large share of his time and energies to the affairs of that road.

During its construction he was frequently upon the line, aiding by his extensive experience and sound judgment in the organization of the work.

He assisted in the ceremony of laying the last rail to connect with the Central Pacific, upon Promontory Point, a distance of nearly eleven hundred miles from Omaha—all which had been constructed in the unprecedented short space of four years time; and since then as a member of the executive committee, has spared no time nor means in aiding the company to place its affairs upon a sound and enduring basis. He still retains the silver spike used in laying the last rail, as a memento of the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Mr. Dillon has an erect, commanding figure, considerably above the medium height, and a countenance expressive of great firmness and decision. His prevailing characteristics have always been, unusual care and moderation in negotiating and entering into contracts and obligations, and great energy and perseverance in carrying them out in good faith when once undertaken. He has always maintained an unblemished reputation for honesty and fair dealing, not only with corporations for whom he has done millions of work, but with sub-contractors, superintendents and laborers, upon whom he has relied for the actual performance of this work.

Mr. Dillon was married in 1841, and has two children living, both of whom are daughters. His residence is in the city of New

York ; and although a veteran in his profession, he is still in the prime of his life and usefulness, and will undoubtedly live many years to enjoy the fruits of his past labors, and perhaps to see many other important works of a national character grow up under his fostering guidance and care.









*Wm. Beach Lawrence*

# WILLIAM BEACH LAWRENCE, LL. D.,

OF RHODE ISLAND.

BY CHARLES HENRY HART, LL. B.,

Historiographer of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia.



HOUGH Mr. Lawrence was, in very early manhood, long enough the representative of the United States in London to obtain for his dispatches an honorable place in the diplomatic annals, and has satisfactorily exercised the functions of chief magistrate of his adopted State, it is not on his brief public career that his reputation is based.

His annotations on the law of nations, in connection with the text of his friend Wheaton, are not only recognized as authorities throughout the civilized world, but have been translated into Chinese and Japanese, and adopted as the universal international code.

William Beach Lawrence was born in the city of New York, on the 23d of October, 1800, and though ever the advocate of the equal rights of naturalized citizens, he is as purely American, by descent, as any one of European origin can be, not having in his veins a single drop of blood derived from an ancestor who emigrated to this continent after the English conquest of New York.

The Lawrence family came from England to the New Netherlands, before the middle of the seventeenth century. They patented portions of what afterwards constituted the towns of Flushing, Hempstead, and Newtown, on Long Island. The original settlers, as well as their immediate descendants, held eminent positions under the Dutch and the early English colonial governments "Holgate's American Genealogy" (Albany, 1848, pp. 201-228),

shows an uninterrupted series of intermarriages between the Lawrences and the Brinckerhoffs, and others, whose names indicate their Dutch origin, covering the whole period which intervened between the emigration and the birth of the subject of this sketch. His maternal grandfather, the Reverend Doctor Beach,\* for many years minister of Trinity Church, New York, was descended from the first white child born in Connecticut, and he intermarried with a Dutch heiress, Ann Van Winkle, who held, under a patent to her ancestors from the government of the New Netherlands, an estate near New Brunswick, now possessed by some of her descendants.

Mr. Lawrence, having already passed two years at Queen's (now Rutgers) College, New Brunswick, entered Columbia College in his native city, at the age of fourteen, and was graduated with distinguished honors, in 1818. On leaving college, he became a student in the office of William Slosson, then the most eminent commercial lawyer of New York. After some time spent there and at Litchfield, where, under Judges Reeves and Gould, was then the great law school of the country, he in 1821 visited Europe. He passed two years in England, France, and Italy, availing himself of a winter in Paris, as well to attend the course of lectures on Political Economy, by Say, as to frequent the school of law. He was thus enabled to combine, with his knowledge of the English common law, an acquaintance with the Roman civil law, as modified in Continental Europe,—knowledge essential to a commentator on international law, especially in that branch of it which involves the comparative legislation of states, and which forms the subject of his latest writings.

In going abroad Mr. Lawrence enjoyed every advantage which an American could well possess, to facilitate his objects of intellectual and social improvement. When the Bank of the United States was incorporated at the close of the war of 1812, so far from

\* A biographical notice of Doctor Beach from the pen of his grandson will be found in Sprague's "Annals of the American Pulpit," vol. V., page 255.

there being, as in the time of General Jackson and Mr. Biddle, an antagonism between it and the Federal administration, it was deemed entirely a national institution, and the father of Mr. Lawrence was selected, as a consistent supporter of the government, for the presidency of the branch at New York, then regarded as the highest distinction that could be conferred on a retired merchant. President Monroe, moreover, recognized in young Lawrence the son of one of the "Presidential Electors" at his recent election. He gave to him letters of introduction to his illustrious predecessors, Jefferson and Madison; and it may well be supposed that the lessons of political science derived from a visit to these sages were of inestimable value to a young American about to view institutions of government from a European standpoint. Mr. Madison commended Mr. Lawrence most strongly to Mr. Rush, then our minister in London, and who had been a favorite member of his cabinet. From Mr. Jefferson he was the bearer of a letter of introduction to the Marquis de Lafayette, who, as a member of the Chamber of Deputies in the reign of Louis XVIII., was then struggling, at no little personal hazard, for constitutional liberty. It was at a subsequent period, when on a visit at La Grange, that Mr. Lawrence was invited to be present at Lafayette's recital to Mr. Sparks of the circumstances which had induced him to embark in the American revolution, as well as of the interesting details connected with his intercourse with General Washington, and the events of our Revolutionary War.

President Monroe introduced Mr. Lawrence to Lord Holland, with whom and Lord Auckland, he had, in conjunction with Mr. Pinkney, conducted the negotiations of 1806, which resulted in a treaty that failed to obtain the assent of President Jefferson, on account of the omission of any provision with regard to the impressment of our sailors. From the Secretary of State, John Quincy Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence received introductions to all our diplomatic representatives. Their opportunities for European intercourse were further increased by the courtesy of M.



Hyde de Neuville, then French minister at Washington, to whom they had been well known during his exile. They also had introductions from King Joseph to the Bonaparte family at Rome, including the Princess Borghese, whose salons were frequented by the most eminent society of Europe.

On Mr. Lawrence's return from abroad, in 1823, he was admitted a counselor of the Supreme Court of New York; but, though always an industrious student, his attention was especially given to public and international law, to which he was particularly prompted by his intercourse with Mr. Wheaton, with whom he then formed an intimate acquaintance, which resulted in a life-long friendship. That his attention in Europe was not confined to his special pursuit will appear from the address delivered in 1825 before the New York Academy of Fine Arts, and which was commended in the *North American Review* and other periodicals of the day. In it will be found an appreciative notice of the ancient and modern schools of Art.

Mr. Gallatin, who when minister in Paris had known the attention which Mr. Lawrence gave to subjects fitting him for diplomatic employment, asked, on his own appointment, in 1826, to London, that he should be named secretary of the legation. The duties confided to that minister besides those of ordinary diplomatic representation, were of the most important character. The commercial intercourse between the United States and the British American provinces, including the West India trade, was then suspended, owing to what appeared to be irreconcilable conflicting pretensions. The general commercial treaty was to be revised and the boundaries between the United States and the British possessions were to be settled. Instructions were also given, though without effecting any result, for adjusting those disputed points of international law, including the right of impressment, which had been pretermitted in the Treaty of Ghent. How far the secretary was able to render efficient aid in the course of the negotiations may be inferred from the assurance, given by Mr. Gallatin, in his final

dispatch to the Secretary of State, of the entire competency of Mr. Lawrence to conduct alone the affairs of the mission.

Mr. Gallatin having returned home in 1827, the ratification of the several treaties concluded by him were exchanged by Mr. Lawrence, who had been appointed chargé d'affaires by the President, and to whom, as the plenipotentiary of the United States, was confided the selection of the arbiter to determine the boundary line on our northern and northeastern frontier. While that matter was still undisposed of, difficulties arose as to conflicting jurisdiction in the disputed territory menacing hostilities between the two countries, which led to an extended correspondence between the representative of the United States and Lords Dudley and Aberdeen. The nature of the title of the United States to all the territory embraced in the treaty of 1783, was discussed on our side with an ability which the journals of the day declared would, in any country where diplomacy was recognized as a regular avocation, have secured for the writer of the notes a permanent career. The character of Mr. Lawrence's dispatches, which are to be found inserted at length in the state papers of the United States and Great Britain (Cong. Doc., II. R., 20 Cong., 2 Ses., No 90, p. 76; Am. Ann. Reg., 1827-8-9, pp. 2, 86. British Foreign State Papers, 1827-8, p. 584), may be inferred from the fact that, more than thirty years afterward, portions of them were transferred without alteration to Lawrence's *Wheaton*, (2d Annotated Ed. 1863, p. 37) and to his French *Commentaire*, (vol. I., p. 170). He has, in those works, besides other matters, drawn largely from his dispatches in regard to the relations of the Western powers and of Russia to the affairs of Turkey, and the establishment of the kingdom of Greece, which took place during his time. (*Commentaire*, vol. I., p. 412). So satisfactorily were the duties of the English mission discharged by Mr. Lawrence, that he not only received from the President, Mr. Adams, and the Secretary of State, Mr. Clay, the highest commendations, but assurances were given to him, which the change of administration defeated, of an appointment to Berlin, where there had been

no minister since Mr. Adams himself, who was recalled in 1801. This mission was not filled till Mr. Wheaton's transfer to it from Copenhagen, in 1835.

The works of Jeremy Bentham, whom Mr. Wheaton termed "the greatest legal reformer of modern times," show his appreciation of Mr. Lawrence (Ed. of Sir John Bowring, vol. XI., p. 36), who, moreover, besides his association with the diplomatic corps and the public men of England, was, during his residence in London, a member of the Political Economy Club to which McCulloch, Sir John Bowring, the historian Grote, and others of like repute belonged. He was also at that period a contributor to the *Westminster Review*, and the notice of one of Fennimore Cooper's works, written in England, is from his pen.

On leaving London, at the close of 1828, Mr. Lawrence passed several months in Paris. He occupied his leisure, while there, in translating into English the history of the treaty of Louisiana by Marbois, who had been minister of France to the United States during our Revolution, and was the French plenipotentiary for concluding that negotiation. The translation was published in 1830. Mr. Lawrence's acquaintance with this veteran diplomatist, who, notwithstanding his advanced age, continued not only to occupy his seat in the Chamber of Peers, but to perform other important official duties, brought him into contact with many eminent men of the day. Among those who frequented the *salons* of the Marquis de Marbois, were Guizot, so well-known as the minister of Louis Philippe, Villemain, and Cousin. These three *hommes de lettres* are specially mentioned; inasmuch as their lectures at the Sorbonne, which were attended by thousands, and of which Mr. Lawrence profited, afforded in the reign of Charles X. the only opportunities of giving utterance to patriotic aspirations.

On his return home, the *American Annual Register*, to which President Adams was also a contributor, was availed of, by the subject of this sketch, to embody in the articles on different countries of Europe, which he furnished for the volumes from 1829

to 1834, the fruits of his foreign observation. But a subject especially cognate to his diplomatic studies was the prosecution of claims in which his family were largely interested, under the treaty of indemnity made with France by Mr. Rives in 1831. These claims for spoliation, principally under the Imperial Decrees of Napoleon, in violation of the law of nations, led to minute investigations of the rights of belligerents and neutrals. His arguments, printed for the Commission, supplied valuable materials for his annotations on the "Elements of International Law." The argument showing the exceptional character of the "Antwerp cases" was specially commended in those presented on the same subject by Mr. Sargeant and Mr. Webster.

Shortly after Mr. Lawrence's return to New York, he delivered a course of lectures on Political Economy to the Senior Class of Columbia College, which, after having been repeated before the Mercantile Library Association, were published in 1832. These lectures were intended to demonstrate the Ricardian theory, and to sustain those doctrines of free trade of which he has ever been a consistent advocate. He also pronounced an anniversary discourse before the New York Historical Society in 1832, which was published under the expressive title of "The Origin and Nature of the Representative and Federative Institutions of the United States." Other papers of Mr. Lawrence's, who was vice-president of the society from 1836 to 1845, will be found in the printed proceedings of that respectable body. Several articles from his pen appeared at different times in various periodicals. Among those specially noticed in contemporaneous works, and reprinted separately, was one in 1831, entitled "Bank of the United States," which was originally published in the *North American Review*. Another, "An Inquiry into the Causes of the Public Distress," was reprinted in 1834, from the *American Quarterly Review*; and the "History of the Negotiations in Reference to the Eastern and North-eastern Boundaries of the United States," published in 1841, was prepared for the *New York Review*.



Mr. Lawrence resumed the practice of the law, on his return from the English mission, in connection with Mr. Hamilton Fish, the present Secretary of State of the United States. His argument before the Court of Errors, in 1845, is an exhaustive examination of the law of "Charitable Uses" in its relation to religious societies. He was successful in reversing, by a vote of fourteen to three, the decision of the Chancellor, which had given to a small minority of a congregation the church property, on the ground of a deviation of the majority from the doctrines of the founders. (*Miller vs. Gable*, 4 Denio, 570.)

Mr. Lawrence removed, in 1850, to his estate, known as Ochre Point, on the shore of the Atlantic, near Newport, Rhode Island, where he already had had his summer residence for several years. Without any intimation to him he was, on the earliest occasion, nominated as lieutenant-governor on the Democratic ticket, which then, for the first time in a long period, was successful. Soon after his entrance into office, he became, under the provision of the constitution, governor of the State. While in the performance of the duties of chief magistrate, he visited the different jails, and in a report, subsequently made to the Senate, he pointed out the abuses to which imprisonment for debt, which Rhode Island was the last State of the Union to retain, had given rise. Through his instrumentality, an act for its abolition passed one house, but it was not till 1870 that the barbarous feature was removed from the statute book.

During the period for which Mr. Lawrence was elected, great political principles were made subservient to the temporary excitement which pervaded New England for the passage of what was called the "Maine Liquor Law," which prohibited the sale of all exhilarating drinks. He was instrumental in defeating the passage of the bill by the Legislature, opposing to it the same constitutional objections for which the law subsequently passed was repudiated by Judge Curtis, in the Circuit Court of the United States. Advantage was taken of the popular feeling on this subject to defeat



by an act of gross political treachery, his re-election on the State ticket. It was feared that the distinction which Mr. Lawrence had already acquired during his brief public career in the State might give him too much prominence and influence and thus interfere with the ambitious aspirations of others, especially in relation to the United States Senate, for which an election was then about to take place.

Another cause for hostility to Mr. Lawrence, from those who wished to continue the State as a rotten borough, was his opposition to the exceptional provision in the constitution of Rhode Island, which discriminates between native and naturalized citizens, making a distinction which he ever contended was in violation of the provision of the Constitution of the United States, conferring on Congress the power of naturalization.

Mr. Wheaton having died in 1848, leaving his family in great destitution, Mr. Lawrence undertook for their benefit a publication of the "Elements of International Law." The first edition, annotated by him and preceded by a notice of the author, was published in 1855. This work, of which more than two thirds consisted of matter furnished by Mr. Lawrence, was at once adopted as a textbook by the English universities as well as by the government and the courts of that country. Of the first edition, five hundred copies were taken, under an act of Congress, for our ministers and consuls abroad. This edition was followed by another in 1863, many of the annotations in which were rewritten, bringing down the state of the law to the latest period. To aid in the preparation of this work, every facility was afforded by Mr. Marcy, General Cass, and Judge Black, successively Secretaries of State, who placed at Mr. Lawrence's disposition the archives of their department.

It was on the appearance of the second edition that, at the request of Brockhaus, of Leipsic, who had published the "History of the Law of Nations" of Wheaton, as well as his "Elements of International Law," in French, that Mr. Lawrence undertook the preparation of a commentary in that language. The order of

Wheaton's "Elements" is followed, but the work, of which two volumes have been published and which will extend to six or eight, is entirely original. The publication of a portion of the third volume, relating to private international law, has been anticipated by two successive articles in the *Revue de Droit International*, of Ghent, edited by M. Rolin Jacquemyns.

The decisions of the English courts, as well as our own, are replete with references to Lawrence's Wheaton, particularly in the cases to which our civil war gave rise. It is also the authority for questions of international law in the British Parliament and American Congress, as well as in diplomatic correspondence. Indeed, it may with truth be said that no book on kindred subjects has appeared in Europe, since the publication of Mr. Lawrence's treatises, which does not contain citations either from the American work or from the French *Commentaire*. Edward Everett reviewing, in the *North American*, the first edition, declares that "Mr. Lawrence has discharged the office of editor and commentator with signal fidelity, intelligence, and success. He not only shows himself familiar with the subject as treated in the pages of his author, but also well acquainted with the entire literature of the law of nations. Whatever is furnished by the English and Continental writers who have succeeded Mr. Wheaton—by Phillimore, Wildman, Manning, Reddie, and Polson; by Ortolan, Hauteufenille, and Fœlix—is judiciously drawn upon by Mr. Lawrence. The diplomacy and legislation of our own and foreign countries are carefully examined and, in short, the work is made in his hands—we think it not too much to say—what its lamented author would have made it, had he lived to the present time." (*North American Review*, January, 1856, p. 32.)

As in the case of the editions in English, the entire money received from Brockhaus was paid to the family of Mr. Wheaton, while the expenses of preparing the work, amounting to many thousands of dollars, were incurred exclusively by Mr. Lawrence. It must, therefore, have been with no little surprise that, while his whole

time was absorbed in the *Commentaire*, he learned of the publication of an edition of the "Elements," by a person who, having acquired some little reputation in early life as the author of a sea romance, then filled the office of United States District Attorney for Massachusetts. Though Mr. Dana declared in his preface, that "the notes of Mr. Lawrence do not form any part of this [his] edition," a judicial investigation has established that, with few exceptions, the work is made up exclusively from Mr. Lawrence's. No better vindication of the high character of Mr. Lawrence's annotations could be afforded than is given in the opinion of the Circuit Court of the United States for Massachusetts, in the case of *Lawrence vs. Dana*, which is a leading case in the law of copyright: "Such a comprehensive collection of authorities, explanations, and well-considered suggestions, is nowhere," said the presiding judge (Clifford), "in the judgment of the court, to be found in our language."

"Allibone's Dictionary of British and American Authors" contains a list of Mr. Lawrence's writings anterior to 1856, but several important publications from his pen have since appeared. Among them was a work, under the title of "Visitation and Search in Time of Peace," induced by the revival in 1858, in the Gulf of Mexico, of the British pretensions to visit the merchant vessels of other nations, under pretext of suppressing the African slave trade. A pamphlet published in Paris in French, in 1860, under the title of "*L'industrie française et l'esclavage des nègres aux Etats Unis*," explained the connection which existed between the manufactures of Europe and the system of labor then prevalent in the United States. The volumes of the transactions of the British Social Science Association, beginning with 1861,—as also the *London Law Magazine*,—contain numerous papers from Mr. Lawrence's pen on questions of international law, several of which, including the affair of the *Trent*, grew out of our civil war. In the latter periodical, as well as in the *Revue de Droit International*, are elaborate studies by him, on the comparative legis-

lation of different countries, respecting the law of marriage and the rights of property of married women, which are particularly commended in the *Revue bibliographique* of the great work of Dalloz (“*Jurisprudence générale.*”)

In the interval between the two editions of “Lawrence’s Wheaton,” Mr. Lawrence visited Europe making the personal acquaintance of the great masters of the science of international law, several of whom had recognized the value of his annotations. The present judge of the High Court of Admiralty, Sir Robert Phillimore, makes copious citations in his “Commentaries upon International Law,” from the first edition, as does Mr. Westlake in his “Private International Law.” The Queen’s Advocate, Sir Travers Twiss, in the preface to his second volume of “The Law of Nations,” says: “While the present volume has been passing through the press, the second annotated edition of ‘Wheaton’s Elements of International Law’ has appeared from the pen of Mr. William Beach Lawrence, enriched with copious notes by its learned editor, bearing upon topics growing out of the pending hostilities on the American continent. Mr. Lawrence has discussed several of the leading questions which have arisen between the United States and Great Britain, with the moderation and impartiality which was to be expected from a publicist who unites the practical experience of a diplomatist with an enlarged theoretical knowledge of his subject.” Ortolan, in his “*Diplomatie de la mer,*” bears testimony equally strong to the value of Mr. Lawrence’s annotations; while they are referred to in almost every page of the edition of “Kent’s Commentary,” annotated by Dr. Abdy, of the University of Cambridge, England. Professor Barnard, of the University of Oxford, in his latest book, “Neutrality of Great Britain during the American Civil War,” recognizes as the highest authorities on international law, the “Elements” and the “*Commentaire.*”

In a subsequent residence abroad, Mr. Lawrence not only revived old literary associations, but at the Social Science Congress,



held at Bristol, England, in October, 1869, he was received as an honored member, whose contributions had been long appreciated. At Berlin his recognition by Hefter and von Holtzendorf and their eminent *confrères* was equally satisfactory, while he was also favored by a personal interview with Count Bismarck, when that eminent statesman, after expressing his appreciation of Mr. Lawrence's annotations, with which he declared himself well acquainted, said that he had made frequent use of them in the preparation of his diplomatic notes.

Mr. Lawrence's *Commentaire* was not only commended by the "Institute," but it introduced him to the notice of several of its most eminent members, among whom, besides Guizot, whom he had known from an early day, were Drouyn de Lhuys, so long Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister President of the Council of State, M. de Parieu, Michel Chevalier, Charles Giraud, Franck, Cauchy, and Laboulaye.

An article in the *Memorial Diplomatique*, from which we extract the following passages, has the well-known signature of Pradier Fodéré, the translator and commentator of Grotius and the commentator of Vattel.

"To follow the chain of events and to bring down the work of Wheaton, it was necessary that a man should be found intelligent and laborious, alike versed in the practice and theory of the law of nations. By the high political positions which he had occupied, and by his personal aptitude for treating questions of international law, Mr. Wm. Beach Lawrence seemed suited for the accomplishment of this scientific mission. To a similarity of social position and pursuits, were moreover added the bonds of a strict friendship. The friend of Wheaton, Mr. Lawrence has continued the scientific enterprise of his competitor in the law of nations, and his colleague in diplomacy.

"Mr. Lawrence has thoroughly studied contemporaneous history. Initiated by his political relations in all the public affairs of his time, an indefatigable reader, and an attentive observer, he has put in requisition all these resources, in order to omit no historical detail that can throw any light upon the events of the last twenty years. He has consulted and examined the memoirs of all the statesmen of our epoch—he has read all the monographs, he has perused all the reviews, he has annotated all the diplomatic papers attentively, studied all the historical works, amassed treasures of erudition, and contributed all this scientific booty to the completion of the less elaborated treatises of Wheaton.

"Mr. Lawrence is not only an enlightened commentator, but he is most worthy to continue the work of his illustrious friend, whose example he has followed in publish-



ing his book in the diplomatic language of Europe—that is to say, in the French language.

“The first volume contains what the author calls the historical part, and includes a rapid view of the principal events which have occurred in Europe since the Peace of Westphalia. Mr. Lawrence has traced in the second volume the diplomatic history of the cases of intervention since the Congress of Vienna in 1815. He has studied most of the historical facts in the official documents, which gives to this volume the character and merit of an actual course of contemporary history. The following volumes will treat of the subjects connected with private international law, questions relating to the equality of states, the rights of property, rights of legation, negotiations and treaties, and the respective rights and obligations of states in their hostile relations. The whole will form a complete treatise of diplomacy of the utmost value to statesmen, and to all who take any interest in international affairs.”—*Memorial Diplomatique*, 1869, p. 110.

While in Europe Mr. Lawrence received from the university of his own State (Brown University) a diploma of the degree of Doctor of Laws, and in 1869 was chosen, in addition to many similar recognitions of his literary standing, an honorary vice-president of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia. It is in this last connection that a notice of his life may not inappropriately fall within the functions of its historiographer.

In the politics of his country, distinct from mere personal or partisan contests, Mr. Lawrence ever took a deep interest, and there are few important points of constitutional law, which he has not discussed, as well in their appropriate places in his elaborate treatises, as in the daily journals and other periodicals.

To the principles of the Democratic party, as he had learned them from Jefferson and Madison, he steadfastly adhered, and he was repeatedly a member of the national conventions of his party for the nomination of the President. In Bartlett's “Literature of the Rebellion,” p. 228, is a list of several papers from the pen of Mr. Lawrence, having for their object to avert the fratricidal contest. He held that the Constitution could not be amended, much less abrogated, except in the form prescribed in the instrument itself, thereby excluding the right of secession as it also excludes the revolutionary reorganization of the States. He ever fondly cherished the hope that by confining the Federal government to its appropriate functions as defined by the Constitution, and leaving to the

States the exclusive internal administration, our Union might be indefinitely extended. With many eminent European publicists, he looked upon the settlement of conflicting differences that might arise under the Constitution, between States as in the case of individuals, by judicial process, as the solution of the greatest of political problems. Nor was it till President Lincoln, in his inaugural address, denied to the Supreme Court any other power than that of determining matters of ordinary litigation between individuals, that he realized the fact that no written constitution could be of any avail to avert civil war, or to maintain in their appropriate spheres the conflicting powers of our complex system.

A firm believer in the autonomy of the States as dating from the first settlement of the country, he could not admit that a system which had survived our colonial dependence, and was wholly unaffected by the transition from the articles of confederation to the Constitution of 1789, could be jeopardized by the breaking out of insurrection or civil war in any portion of the States, or by any other circumstance concerning the general government. He regarded the proposed convention of the 18th of April, 1865, between General Sherman and General Johnston, the Confederate commander, which provided for the recognition of the *status* of the States as it existed before the war, as the only arrangement consistent with either constitutional or international law. The systems of reorganization subsequently attempted, whether that proposed by President Johnson, or those established by various acts of Congress, he considered as alike unwarranted by the Federal Constitution, and revolutionary. Even if the State constitutions were abrogated by the war, it was not for the President or the Federal legislature, he contended, to provide for new organic laws. That right belonged exclusively to the whole people of the respective States, including as well the enfranchised slaves, if they were to be deemed citizens, as those who had been engaged in the civil war, and who, on the principle of the law of nations, required no amnesty or pardon for

obeying a regular *de facto* government. (*Commentaire*, etc., vol. II., p. 162.)

Mr. Lawrence, after a recent absence of a couple of years in Europe, has returned to his library, which he has been accumulating for half a century, and which contains the best collections of works in his specialty, in German, Spanish, and Italian, as well as in English and French, to be found in any library, public or private, in this country. No other place can afford greater facilities for the completion of his great work.

Mr. Lawrence was married, early in life, to a daughter of Archibald Gracie, an eminent merchant of New York. Mrs. Lawrence accompanied her husband to Europe during his first two visits there, and died in 1858, leaving several children, one of whom General Albert Gallatin Lawrence, forms the subject of another notice in this work.

## GENERAL ALBERT GALLATIN LAWRENCE.

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THE subject of our sketch was born in New York City, on the 14th of April, 1835. His family is one of the oldest and best known among the citizens of the metropolis. His grandfather, Isaac Lawrence, having been President of the Branch Bank of the United States in New York during its entire existence; and his father, the Hon. William Beach Lawrence, who is now living in Rhode Island, having filled a high position in the diplomatic service of the general government previous to presiding as Governor of the State of Rhode Island. The earlier history of the family for many generations can be found in Holgate's "Genealogy of New York families."

Before entering Harvard University in 1852, Mr. Lawrence was educated during three years in Germany and Switzerland. Graduating in 1856, he continued his studies, preparatory for the bar, and remained for two more years, at the Dane Law School, Cambridge, when having received the decree of LL. B., the young lawyer spent some twelve months in David Dudley Field's office. Upon admission as a member of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, a tour through Europe was considered advisable not only as a recreation after much mental toil but for improvement—Mr. Lawrence's knowledge of foreign languages giving him great facilities to that end. Mr. I. Glancy Jones was at that time United States Minister at Vienna. Mr. Lawrence was attached to the Legation and consequently mingled more in society than is generally the case with foreigners in that most exclusive capital.

Mr. Lincoln was elected, in 1860, President of the United States, and the nomination of Jefferson Davis showed that the country was



in danger. The same vessel brought the young diplomat and Col. John Bankhead Magruder from Europe. The one, educated by the government, planning and scheming its destruction, the only excuse being the cant of State Rights. The other, not clear as to how the thing was to be done, but resolved that his possible both mentally, physically, and pecuniarily was to be pledged to the preservation of the Union. Captain Lawrence served on General Stahl's staff from September, 1862, to July, 1863, during which time the 11th Corps formed part of the Army of the Potomac. During the rest of the year he was trying to organize a cavalry regiment in New York, but the riots arising on account of the draft having made recruiting distasteful to him, he returned to the army and was on duty with the rank of captain organizing and drilling colored troops. As soon as the forward movement under General Grant took place, he returned to his staff duties and was successively on the staffs of General W. H. Smith, at Cold Harbor, of General Martindale, at Petersburg, and of General Ames, in front of Richmond and finally at Fort Fisher. When on the 15th January, 1865, the second and successful attack was made on Fort Fisher, Captain Lawrence led the assault, and was wounded in four places while placing the flag on the ramparts. In what estimation he was held by his superior officers can best be seen from papers now on file in the State and War Departments.

## EXTRACTS.

HD. QRS. 2 DIV. 24 A. C., WILMINGTON, N. C.

March 15, '65.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,

Secretary of War.

\* \* \* \* \* He has been a member of my staff since July last and has displayed, in the various engagements in which we have taken part, great gallantry, coolness, and judgment. So prominent have been these qualities that I have given him charge of commands greater than a regiment, in most important movements. In October last when one of my brigades was to assault the enemy's position near Richmond, I sent him with it, having more confidence in him than in the brigade commander.

At Fort Fisher he led the assault, with authority to direct in my name the movements of the leading regiments, and was the first to gain the Fort, where he was wounded.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obe't serv't,

A. AMES, Bt. Major-Gen.



WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 10, 1867.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

I respectfully recommend the foregoing application to the most favorable consideration of the Hon. Secretary of State. I first knew General Lawrence, then Captain Lawrence, as the most trusted and valued staff officer of Major-General Ames, then commanding a division of the 10th Army Corps, his reputation at that time for all soldierly qualities was of the highest. Subsequently my attention was more particularly called to him at the capture of Fort Fisher, N. C., where he led the assault and was the first man to pass through the palisades and mount the parapet, upon which he fell severely wounded and mutilated for life. His brilliant courage and distinguished conduct on this occasion was the admiration of the whole force under my command. A more gallant soldier I never knew. To his military qualities he adds a knowledge of French and German, acquired during a residence of six years in Europe, and education, manner, habit, and character which fit him to represent the country near a foreign government not only with credit to himself but to the nation.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obe't serv't,

ALFRED H. TERRY, Bt. Major-Gen. U. S. A.

On the fourteenth of February following the attack, the Legislature of Rhode Island passed the following resolution:—

## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.

Resolution of thanks to certain Officers, from this State, in the Army and Navy of the United States.

*Whereas*, It is just and proper that due acknowledgment should be made to those who have periled their lives, and by special deeds of daring have contributed to the accomplishment of important results; and

*Whereas*, In the recent capture of Fort Fisher, at the entrance to Wilmington, in North Carolina, by the combined forces of the Army and Navy, one of the most important victories of the war, several officers belonging to Rhode Island rendered distinguished services; it is therefore

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the General Assembly be, and they hereby are, presented to Captain Albert Gallatin Lawrence, of the United States Army, who, foremost among the brave, gallantly fell, wounded, while in the act of planting his country's flag upon the ramparts of Fort Fisher.

By the Governor,

JAMES T. SMITH.

JOHN R. BARTLETT, (Seal.)

*Secretary of State.*

Among several other papers signed by Generals Grant, Sherman, Chief Justice Chase, and others, we find the following:—

I am well acquainted with General Lawrence and fully concur in the language of General Terry—through education, manners, habits, and character he is fit to represent our country near a foreign government not only with credit to himself but to the nation. I will add that he is well versed in public and international law.

STEPHEN I. FIELD,

Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Johnson shortly after his accession to the Presidency had proclaimed that those who had done well in war ought to receive the rewards which the Executive had in its gift. Bt. Brigadier-General Lawrence was sent as Minister Resident near the Republic of Costa Rica, principally through the good offices of Senator Morgan of New York, from whom as governor Lieutenant Lawrence had received his first commission.

During his residence in Costa Rica, he procured from that government the acknowledgment of important franchises and rights in favor of the Central American Transit Company, and received in consequence the following grateful tribute :—

OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN TRANSIT CO.,  
56 EXCHANGE PLACE, NEW YORK, December 9, 1867.

At a meeting of the Directors held this day it was unanimously resolved :—

"That we hereby tender our especial thanks to our Minister Resident in the Republic of Costa Rica, the Honorable A. G. Lawrence, for the diplomatic ability and tact he has displayed in bringing about an agreement between that Government and the Company, by which we have been spontaneously appointed 'Conservator of the River San Juan' on behalf of that Republic, with ample power to carry out all those works which we may think necessary or useful for the re-establishment or maintaining of the River San Juan and port of the same name.

"Whereby a difficult international question of conflicting riparian rights, between the republics of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, which threatened at one time to embarrass us in our operations to accomplish those objects, has been judiciously quieted and removed and this company have thereby required freedom to proceed with the above-named important works, in such manner as science and experience may point out and our engineers may recommend for our adoption.

"Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to forward a copy to Mr. Lawrence at Washington."

A true copy from the minutes.

A. J. HAMILTON,  
Secretary.

In consequence of great suffering caused by the unsuccessful amputation of his arm the minister was obliged to return to the United States to undergo a second operation. Soon after his recovery, a member of the Prussian Legation made, at a dinner at the Prussian minister's at Washington, an arrogant remark; General Lawrence informed him that his conduct was ungentlemanly and the result was a duel. After

receiving his adversary's fire, General Lawrence, the challenged party, fired in the air. Mr. Seward, Secretary of State, had just previously seceded from the Republican party. The opportunity was too tempting to him, to slight his old Republican colleagues and at the same time to injure one who had always shown himself consistent in his devotion to the Union and to the principles through which that Union had been preserved and sustained. A letter published by Mr. Seward in the papers, complaining that General Lawrence should have declined the challenge and should have been governed by the Army Regulations,—although palpably illogical and written for party purposes,—was followed by the minister's resignation. A request made at the same time of the Prussian government that their secretary and attaché should be recalled, was treated by that government with considerable *hauteur*, and they were removed to higher posts.

In 1865, General Lawrence was married to the youngest daughter of the late General J. P. Taylor, Commissary General United States Army, brother of President Taylor, and now resides upon his estate near Newport, Rhode Island.









*A. A. Glover,*

## ABIA A. SELOVER.



THE study of the character and genius of the representative American never fails to offer much of pleasing interest and valuable instruction. It develops an originality of thought—a peculiar mastering of expedients and a boldness of execution which have given the most wonderful results as the product of energy and enterprise. Indeed, it often suggests comparisons which reflect severely upon other nationalities so far as an appreciation of modern progress is concerned. The United States have accomplished in a few decades what centuries of effort in the Old World have not excelled. Progress finds among our people its readiest, ablest, and most daring exponents. Whether this is attributable to the freedom and elasticity of our institutions, or to the influence of climate and surroundings, or each and all of these, we shall not presume to say. Certain it is we meet in every day life men whose careers would entitle them to distinguished consideration in any country, and these men are multitudinous in the United States.

The subject of our sketch is a worthy representative of that type of American character—that progressive spirit which promotes public good in advancing individual prosperity, and for which our people are distinguished.

Mr. Selover was born in Enfield, Tompkins County, N. Y., in 1824. His father was at that time deputy sheriff of the county, and was a most active and zealous member of the Masonic Fraternity, which connection, after the excitement and personal animosities engendered at the death of Morgan, induced his removal in 1835 with his family to New York city. In the year following, the family again moved to Cleveland, Ohio, at which

place young Selover attended the High School until the fall of 1838, when he was invited to study law in the office of General Lucius V. Bierce, of Akron, Ohio. There he remained two years busied with legal pursuits, and in 1840, having become wearied by the close application required in the prosecution of his studies, he abandoned the profession and engaged in mercantile business, which, however, was soon relinquished for the want of capital and experience.

On the breaking out of the Mexican war in 1846, Mr. Selover, then twenty-two years of age, with characteristic promptness and commendable patriotism, joined the United States army, and was ordered to Point Isabel, Texas. After leaving the port of New York, however, and when about fifty miles at sea, the transport conveying troops collided with a steamer, and was so disabled that the commander was compelled to return, and had hardly reached a point off Fort Hamilton when the vessel sank.

Mr. Selover was next ordered to join General Scott's army at Vera Cruz, and was attached to the staff of Major F. T. Lally, who commanded the expedition which left Vera Cruz to cut its way through to the City of Mexico. This expedition was twenty-one days reaching Jalapa, where it remained two months. At Huamantla a desperate fight took place, in which the gallant Walker fell mortally wounded by the side of Selover. After many hardships the command finally reached the City of Mexico; and we next hear of Selover taking an active part in an expedition organized under the leadership of Brigadier General Joseph Lane, and numbering in its ranks such daring spirits as Colonel Jack Hays of Texas notoriety. There were also in this command one hundred "Texan Rangers," making a total force of one hundred and eighty-two men. These left the City of Mexico with the avowed object of effecting the capture of General Santa Anna; and for this purpose they accomplished twenty-one successive night marches, with short intervals of rest during the day, until they had penetrated the enemy's country a distance of two hun-

dred and fifty miles from the main army of the United States. It is affirmed that the famous Mexican chief escaped being made prisoner by flight from a farm house but a half hour prior to the arrival of this command.

For the part Mr. Selover took in this arduous expedition, and for his military career generally, he was honorably mentioned in the official reports.

The Mexican war over, he renounced his soldier life, and proceeded to New York, where he entered as salesman in the house of Jonas Conkling & Co. In this position he remained one year, and in March, 1849, sailed for San Francisco, and enrolled himself among the early pioneers of California. In the pursuit of his business he traveled all over the mining districts of the country, carrying upon his back the necessary and crude implements of a miner. Returning to San Francisco, he joined the surveying corps of Wm. M. Eddy, city surveyor, and assisted in surveying and laying out the southern section of that city.

Soon after this Mr. Selover identified himself with the Democratic party, and took an active and prominent part in the political issues of the day. He was a warm and constant friend of Senator Broderick, and was seated at the table with him when the quarrel arose that ended in the melancholy death of the Senator.

Prospering in business enterprise, he was enabled to contribute materially to the growth of the young city of his adoption. He was elected a member of the first Common Council of San Francisco, at which time the Mayor was John W. Geary, now Governor of Pennsylvania. In this connection Mr. Selover's executive and administrative ability were appreciated, and he exercised a controlling influence in both branches of the Council. He was appointed chairman of the Committee of Health and Police, and during the memorable cholera season devoted his time, energies, and purse to the relief of the sufferers.

Aided by two associates he caused the erection of the first brick building of any magnitude in San Francisco, costing over \$200,000.



This edifice was destroyed by the fire of May, 1851, leaving Mr. Selover bankrupt; but before its embers were cold he enlisted capital, and forthwith had workmen engaged in laying foundations for another building on the ruins of the old structure.

He joined, in 1852, an expedition having for its object the capture or conquest of the Sandwich Islands, King Kamehameha having vouchsafed his approval of the undertaking; but this was frustrated by the combined agencies of British interference and the treachery of the Collector of the Port of San Francisco.

At the commencement of President Pierce's administration, Mr. Selover, then in Washington, was offered the appointment of Postmaster of San Francisco; but owing to the asperity of the political contest between Senators Weller and Gwynn he declined the offer. Subsequently he was tendered any position on the Pacific coast he might choose, but he declined all political honors, and returned to San Francisco and established the house of Selover & Sinton, real estate, auction, and commission merchants. About this time he was appointed State and City auctioneer and notary public. His firm transacted the largest business in real estate of any house in the city, their sales amounting frequently to over a million of dollars in one operation.

Mr. Selover remained in the firm until 1857. In 1856 he joined the Republican party, and became an earnest worker and zealous advocate in behalf of Republican doctrines. He associated himself in 1858 with Fremont in the Mariposa estate, consisting of an area of seventy square miles. This property was sold in 1863 to a company in Wall street for ten millions in stock and one and a half millions in bonds. On the forming of this company, Mr. Selover, with much shrewdness and fortunate foresight, sold out his entire interest in the concern.

He has been for the past seven years a resident of New York, and has invested largely of his means in real estate on Manhattan Island. As a public spirited citizen, he has used his resources liberally. He is identified with various and important projects



and works of benevolence, which bespeak the wisdom of matured judgment and the promptings of a generous heart.

In this unvarnished recital of facts connected with the life story of Mr. Selover, we have studiously avoided any attempt at wordy display. There are, however, incidents and data in the record from which we have gathered these items which, elaborated by fancy, would constitute a story not void of thrilling adventure and romantic heroism. It is true that one might imagine from the diversity of pursuits and enterprises which come in as connecting links of Selover's history that his genius at times savored of dangerous versatility. Profitless obstinacy in the pursuit of any calling is not characteristic of our people, who, with a wonderful faculty for adapting themselves to circumstances, readily renounce one business when exhausted to assume another more promising. So with Mr. Selover, change with him meant a determination to do better. In whatever sphere he acted his aim and object were ultimate success. Stimulated by his ability to attain this end he has worked with an energy and a steadfastness of purpose that have at last yielded their reward.

Mr. Selover, as his likeness indicates, is a man of great power and inherent life force, and is remarkable for the intensity of his feelings, the quickness of his perceptions, and comprehensiveness of his ideas. He has a remarkable organization, both mental and physical, his head being large and fully developed, especially in the intellectual regions, while his physical organization is compact and fibrous, and marked with every indication of power, endurance, and longevity.

The intensity of his nervous organization, combined with the force imparted by his phrenological developments, would be liable to render the efforts of his earlier life less satisfactory and complete than those of his maturer years. But the quickness of his perceptions, his ability to read and understand men, his practical talents and comprehensive intellect combined with the great strength and power of his organization, insure for him marked success.







*N. W. Hubbard*

## HILAND R. HULBURD.

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AMONG the men of "advanced ideas" in matters of finance, now more or less prominent in this country, may, with great propriety, be classed the present Comptroller of the Currency at Washington City, whose "counterfeit presentment" faces this page. Mr. Hulburd's theories and views are those rather of *statesmanship* than of *banking*—as they ought to be: which means simply that they are practical, more than technical; comprehensive, and for the country, rather than restricted, and for the stockholders. First the people, and the multiform business they have to carry on, and the safety, sufficiency, and mobility of the medium of exchange: then the banker, the proper security of his investment, and the liberal earnings of his skill and enterprise.

Hiland R. Hulburd was born in the town of Worthington, Franklin County, Ohio, on the 16th day of March, 1829. His father was the Rev. Hiland Hulburd, a minister of the Presbyterian Church, who was a native of Vermont, and educated at Middlebury College in that State. His mother was of Welsh parentage, being a granddaughter of the Rev. Howell R. Powell, well known in western New York, fifty years ago, as an eloquent preacher among the Welsh Presbyterians.

Young Hulburd's childhood passed without particular incident, except that in consequence of failing health his father sought relief in change of location, which took him to the western part of the State of New York, where he remained but a few years, when, returning to the State of Ohio, and spending a year or two in the city of Cincinnati, he finally settled at Columbus, about the year 1840. Here it was that Hiland commenced the study of the classics, with



the view of preparing himself for college, under the preceptorship of a Scotchman named Bonsall, a graduate of Edinburgh University—a peculiar and crotchety man, though a very thorough classical scholar. With this gentleman he studied for two years, going through a rigid training after the old Scotch fashion. His preparatory studies were completed under the supervision of Mr. Myron Barrett, a graduate of Yale, and he entered the Sophomore class of the Western Reserve College, at Hudson, Ohio, in the autumn of the year 1845: an institution the faculty of which were nearly all graduates of Yale, upon which college, indeed, it was modeled, having the same course of study, and the same general system of discipline.

After entering college, Hulburd did not prove to be a severe student, though easily standing well in his class, and considered a good scholar. His tastes inclined to classical studies and *belles-lettres*, rather than to the severer discipline of mathematics and the exact sciences. Among his classmates were Charles W. Palmer, now a prominent lawyer of Cleveland, Ohio; M. C. Read, a member of the corps for the geological survey of that State; Hon. J. C. Lee, for several years, and now, Lieutenant-Governor of Ohio; and Hon. J. S. Sawyer, a prominent member of the Minnesota Legislature. Mr. Hulburd graduated in 1848, and commenced the study of law under the direction of P. B. Wilcox, a distinguished lawyer of Columbus.

In the spring of 1849, during the prevalence throughout the country of the California excitement, Mr. Hulburd availed himself of the opportunity offered him, to join a party of revenue officials, who were about to make the overland journey under the leadership of Colonel James Collier, of Steubenville, Ohio, who had been appointed collector of customs at the port of San Francisco. This party assembled at Fort Leavenworth, on the Missouri River, the latter part of April, and in May started over the plains on the old Santa Fé and Chihuahua trail. "Roughing it" in camp was a novel experience to young Hulburd, but he soon got used to it,

and no impressions of early life are more vividly fixed in his memory now.

The party was composed of about thirty men of various ages and dispositions, and from different localities. Consequently, there were some discordant elements to harmonize, but they got along very well upon the whole, and reached Santa Fé early in July. Here they were detained several weeks, exchanging horses for mules, and wagons for a pack train. When refitted, they started on a new route, southwestwardly, through what is now known as Arizona. Becoming entangled in the mountains, the party were beset by hostile Apaches, and had rather a rough time for several weeks, but bore themselves well, and finally came out in the valley of the Gila. Here a new trouble came upon them. Their mules began to give out, and soon nearly all the animals left them were required to carry their baggage and provisions. Under these circumstances the last part of the journey was made on foot; and, weary, worn, and footsore, the little band marched into San Diego about the middle of October, having been nearly six months on the way.

After spending about a month at San Diego, Mr. Hulburt sailed up the coast in an English coal ship, and arrived at San Francisco in the last day of November, 1849. At that time the city was built principally of canvas—the streets were not graded—and the rainy season had fairly opened. Crowds of adventurers from all quarters of the globe were assembled there, and every thing was bustle, confusion, and mud. Finding in the sheriff an old acquaintance, Mr. Hulburt was appointed a special deputy, and in this capacity was employed until the spring opened, when he fell in with the living current that was constantly flowing toward the mines. Here he went to work with pick and spade, delving for gold, in which pursuit he was reasonably successful.

Returning to San Francisco in the fall, Mr. Hulburt entered the office of Rushworth & Co., custom-house brokers, where he worked until the spring of 1851. Then the firm with which he was associated having dissolved, he opened an office in the same business on

his own account, and did well, though burned out two or three times, and losing something on each occasion. Finally the custom-house itself was burned out, and re-established in a warehouse at the end of a long wharf at the foot of California Street. In this part of the city there was no building suitable for a broker's office; but Mr. Hulburd was equal to the emergency, and buying the pilot-house from the deck of a steamboat that was undergoing repairs, he placed it on the wharf near the door of the new Custom House, and "hung out his shingle" within twenty-four hours after the occurrence of the fire!

In December, 1851, at the earnest solicitation of his family, Mr. Hulburd gave up business in San Francisco, and returned to the States by the way of Panama, Havana, and New Orleans, reaching home in January, 1852, after an absence of nearly three years. Without losing time he resumed the study of law in the office of A. H. Dunlevy, at Lebanon, Warren County, Ohio—at the same time performing the duties of Clerk of the Probate Court. Having in time been admitted to practice, he returned to Columbus, and in October, 1853, was married to the youngest daughter of the Hon. Moses B. Corwin, then a member of Congress from the Seventh District of Ohio. Unwilling to serve the tedious probation through which all young lawyers have to pass, Mr. Hulburd now promptly engaged in active business, in which he continued through the next two or three years. It was at this time that he acquired that practical knowledge of banking, as it was carried on at the West, which has since been useful to him in more ways than one.

The Republican party of Ohio—which was formed mainly by the fusion of the Liberty party and the Know-Nothings—having carried the election for the State officers in 1856, Mr. Hulburd, who had been one of the earliest of the Republicans, was offered and accepted the position of Register of Banks in the office of the Auditor of State. In this capacity, he had charge of the securities, unsigned notes, and reports of the Stock Banks of the State, until July, 1858, at which time he became Secretary of the Board of

Fund Commissioners of Ohio. Here he had charge of the sinking fund accounts, and of all transfers and issues of State stocks, and generally of all business pertaining to the public debt of the State. This position he held until the summer of 1861, when he relinquished it for the purpose of devoting himself to a thorough and comprehensive review of his legal studies. This accomplished, he in the summer of the next year removed to Chicago, with the design of entering upon the practice of the law there. Finding, however, after an experience of one winter and part of another, that the climate was too severe for him, he was compelled to seek a milder temperature, and by the advice of his physician removed to Washington City about the first of January, 1864.

The National Banking System was at this time just being inaugurated, and Mr. Chase, then Secretary of the Treasury, knowing the qualifications and experience of Mr. Hulburd, appointed him a clerk in the National Currency Bureau, of which the Hon. Hugh McCulloch was the head. Mr. Hulburd's career in Washington is well known. All his previous studies and experience combined to fit him in a peculiar manner for the performance of the duties required in his new position; and he passed rapidly through all grades of clerkship until he became Deputy Comptroller of the Currency, August 1, 1865. In this last-named capacity he served until July, 1866, when, by the resignation of the Hon. Freeman Clarke, he became Acting Comptroller, the office of Comptroller remaining in suspense for several months. President Johnson, having departed from the policy of the Republican party, was seeking to extend his influence and to build up a party of his own; and it seemed certain that he would appoint some political friend or partisan to the vacant comptrollership. The Secretary of the Treasury, however, who was a warm personal friend of Mr. Hulburd's, insisted that the appointment should not be made a political one; and the President, after much hesitation, conferred the place upon Mr. Hulburd, knowing this gentleman to be a pronounced, radical Republican, and receiving from him no pledge or promise of support. The act,



highly complimentary to Mr. Hulburd, may be remembered to the President's honor, although, in addition to the influence of the Secretary, it required a strong outside pressure. Financial men throughout the country had fixed their minds upon Mr. Hulburd as the new Comptroller, and when they saw that the Secretary of the Treasury needed "backing," they gave it "with a will" from all sections. Mr. Hulburd was promptly confirmed by the Senate, and taking the oath of office entered upon the discharge of his duties on the 6th of February, 1867.

Mr. Hulburd's administration of the affairs of the office of the Comptroller of the Currency, is recognized by bankers and other financiers throughout the country for its ability and wisdom. Its fairness is not less a distinguishing feature. And for the general intelligence, in respect to all matters of banking and finance, which lies at its basis and pervades it throughout, no other evidence need be sought than that which is afforded by his Annual Reports for the years 1867, '68, and '69. The first of these documents, in particular, may be referred to as a masterly exposition of leading principles involved, and as a storehouse of wisdom, drawn from sources universally recognized to be among the best, upon the minor themes as well as the general subject to which it relates. The *practical* character of these reports is also one of their commendable features; and for an indication of the respect in which the Comptroller's opinions are held, it is only necessary to examine them and see how often their suggestions have been adopted by Congress, and received from that body the force of law.

Mr. Hulburd evidently looks upon the National Banks as institutions peculiarly designed for the benefit of the great masses of the people. In the official supervision which he exercises over them, therefore, it is evident that he never loses sight of the important facts of their connection with and influence upon the general *business* of the country. And while tolerant of much that is crude in finance, and of something that is irregular in banking, the relation of the system to the necessities of that business, as these necessities



arise from season to season and from year to year, demands and receives his constant care.

Yet no one will say that, while watching with jealous eye the interests of the people, as affected by a sound currency and a judicious supply of it, he fails to do justice to the banker, and to render his investments safe, and the reward of his enterprise and industry satisfactory and sure.



## AARON J. VANDERPOEL.

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ONE can have been a reader of the New York journals without becoming very familiar with the name of this gentleman; because he has been for a great many years connected with nearly all the eminent commercial suits that have been litigated in the metropolis. He is known to be a thorough lawyer; and, indeed, it has been humorously said of him that his bed was made of calfskin. He believes in the famous aphorism that "the law is a jealous mistress." He is, therefore, nothing of a poet; knows as little of music as did Lord Eldon; and has probably never read fifty novels in his life. As is commonly the case with men who have little imagination or fancy, he has a very sound judgment.

He is of a legal family. His uncle, Aaron Vanderpoel, lately deceased, after whom he is named, was one of the most eminent lawyers in New York, and was for several years associate justice of the Superior Court of that city. Another uncle, James Vanderpoel (whose daughter was married to the late John Van Buren), was also, for a great many years, a circuit judge of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, resident at Albany. Mr. Vanderpoel's father, however, was an eminent physician of Kinderhook, Columbia County. His brother, Dr. Samuel O. Vanderpoel, who lives in Albany, and is now president of the State Medical Society, is the Willard Parker of the capital of the State.

Mr. Vanderpoel was born at Kinderhook, in the year 1825. He was preliminarily educated at the celebrated Kinderhook Academy, from which so many public men have graduated. He received his degrees from the New York University in 1843. His law studies were in part followed in the offices of Messrs. Tobey and Reynolds,

in Kinderhook, but mainly in the office of the late William Curtis Noyes, whose name is justly celebrated in the annals of New York jurisprudence, and whose place Mr. Vanderpoel may be said, in a great degree, to have taken at the bar upon the decease of his preceptor. Very soon after his admission to the bar, and about the year 1852, the well-known firm of Brown, Hall & Vanderpoel was founded; the Mr. Hall of that firm being the present Mayor of New York City, and still actively connected with it. This firm was recently playfully termed in the New York *Herald*, "the historic firm of the metropolis." It has been standing counsel for the sheriff of New York City and County for nearly twenty years; also for the Police and the Health Departments, and a variety of municipal bureaus, and has been concerned on one side or the other of all the great railroad litigations which have been before the courts of that city during the past ten years. Mr. Vanderpoel is pleasant-faced, of medium height, very quick, wiry, and agile in his movements, although of late years somewhat inclined to corpulency. He has a very strikingly-defined and intellectual face, while of unmistakable Knickerbocker cut in feature. He is of Holland descent, and his ancestors were among the early Dutchmen of the province, as his name indicates. It was originally spelled Von-Der-Poel, literally signifying, of the pool, or brook. He is a marvel of industry, and perfectly untiring in the pursuit of his profession; active in the Federal and in all the State courts, as well as in his office by day, and in his library late into the night. His library, like that of Mr. Charles O'Connor, and of Mr. Elbridge T. Gerry, is famous in the profession for its extent and careful selection.

Mr. Vanderpoel's excellencies are, besides industry and devotion to his profession, unvarying accuracy in pleading, and a crisp clearness of statement, though he can not be regarded as an elegant speaker. His mind is not only imbued with the principles of law, but it is also an encyclopedia of leading cases. He is very popular with the bench and the profession because of these characteristics. His cases of the smallest importance are prepared with as great care

as if they were of greater magnitude, for he rightly believes that every case is of equal importance to the particular client who is interested in it, and that if the interest of that client is of sufficient importance to go to law about, it is of sufficient importance entirely to exhaust. He is highly successful in cross-examination, being not only logical but philosophical also. A journalist who listened to Mr. Vanderpoel's argument in a recent railroad case published of it: "Members of the profession were attracted by his plain, straightforward, well-condensed language; not a point was omitted, and scarcely an unnecessary word was used in his whole summing up. His argument was a strong one, and evinced great familiarity with cases where heavy corporate interests were involved."

Personally Mr. Vanderpoel is a great favorite with all his acquaintances. Though an ardent and active lawyer, pushing every thing under his charge with vigor, there is a courteousness of manner, a fairness of dealing, and a frankness of language in all his professional endeavors, that does not fail to make even his opponents yield him a large share of admiration and respect. He is a man of large heart and warm sympathies, true to his friends and generous to his foes.

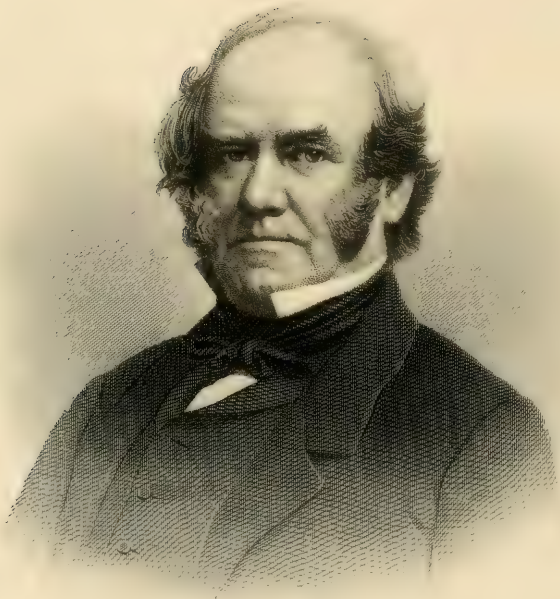
Mr. Vanderpoel has never found time to dabble either in literature or in politics—those two tempters from the profession which, as we have before said, is so jealous a mistress.

Mr. Vanderpoel married the daughter of Henry C. Van Schaack, also an eminent lawyer of central New York, and a descendant of a celebrated lawyer of the province, himself eminent for historical researches. Although wedded to his profession, he is, so far as he dares to be with regard to that profession, much valued in New York society. He resides in a large mansion in West Sixteenth Street, near the Fifth Avenue, and has a charming country estate in his native place of Kinderhook. It has seldom fallen to the lot of a man forty-four years of age to have attained so high a position at the bar; but, high as it is, his friends predict for him still higher honors.









After a portrait by J. H. P.

A. G. Harney

## AUGUSTUS G. HAZARD.

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HE subject of this sketch holds high rank in that class who by a natural force of character, and a genius fitted for encounter with obstacles, have risen to fortune and distinction. He has been widely known as the head of a manufacturing and commercial company, without a superior of its kind in this country, which has been raised to its present position by his individual enterprise and foresight. But this is not all. He has been as generally known and respected for his large endowments of mind and heart, and for a certain high and chivalric tone maintained through life which won for him recognition as one of the models of honor among merchants.

Augustus George Hazard was born in Kingston, Rhode Island, April 28, 1802. His father, Thomas S. Hazard, was a sea-captain, the memory of whose bold and manly character is still treasured on the south shore of that State; and his mother, Silence Hazard, is remembered for strong and generous qualities, which marked her among women and reappeared in her youngest and last surviving of eight children. Nowhere more appreciably than in New England does biography illustrate the continuance and descent of physical and moral characteristics from one generation to another.

The better parts of the Puritans of Hartford, Providence, and New London survive in the race of our own time; and the family whose name is here recorded is not an exception to this remark. In the State of Rhode Island, especially, has this family name become one of felicitous honor. Among the near kinsmen of Colonel Hazard, was Oliver Hazard Perry, whose martial gallantry has become a part of the national renown. Of his other nearest of kin

are the present families of Hazard, held among the most reputable in that commonwealth affluent in men ; of one of whom, Rowland G. Hazard, of South Kingston, special mention may be pardoned, as not less distinguished as a publicist and logician than as a man of power in practical affairs, the chosen friend of the late William Ellery Channing.

The father of Colonel Hazard removed with his family in 1808 to Columbia, Connecticut, and the son remained there with the family upon the farm until he reached the age of fifteen. But the impulse of youth and adventure moved him to larger scenes of active life. Conscious of possessing a taste and skill for the useful arts, he engaged and continued in the occupation of a painter until his eighteenth year. At that time, in the year 1818, he made the first adventure from home, at his own risk and account. Without favor or special friendship, he sailed for Savannah, Georgia, in one of the light packets of that period, paying the fare and "finding himself" on the passage from previous earnings saved. His was one of the early examples, since become more common, of the poor and rising boys of New England, bound to try and bound to succeed in the conquest of fortune. For two years he was prosperous in the occupation which he took from Connecticut, and of which he was not ashamed in later and better days. So well did he bear himself as quickly to gather about him the universal respect of a large and increasing circle of friends in his new home. Two years later, revisiting New England, he married Miss Merrill, of West Hartford, who survives him, not less kindly esteemed in all the circles of benevolence than in that of her own family.

Returning to Savannah, then only on the threshold of business life, and taking the next step upward, he made the change, commonly one full of uncertainty, from the career of a mechanic to the career of a merchant. He bought out one of the commercial houses of Savannah, dealers in paints, oils, and other merchandise, then the largest establishment of the kind in the State of Georgia. This business he pursued with great success for ten years. It was during



this term of residence at Savannah that Colonel Hazard developed those qualities of the true American merchant which have given him a high place among that class of our countrymen; a class which is not surpassed by a corresponding one in any country on the globe; and it was then that he familiarized his mind with the code of commercial law and honor, the practice of which made for him there life-long friends, and subsequently sustained him amid the revulsions which were to come upon him as upon others. During the same period, comprising the most educating time of a man's life, the stage between twenty and thirty years of age, he cultivated the social talents and virtues which continued to ripen and mellow in rich fruit in after time. In the commercial metropolis of Georgia, through its beautiful squares and hospitable homes, there was at that time a prevailing tone of commercial honor, of social chivalry, elegance, and refinement, which was not more attractive than it was elevating. In all this he bore a prominent share, for which by his personal endowments he was signally fitted, and for which he is there even now recollected. In after years, while residing in his hospitable mansion, on the banks of the Connecticut, this early association with men who became prominent in public fame opened to him and to them the opportunities for frequent renewal of the acquaintance and delight of the past. But in the influences of an enticing commercial and social life at the South, he did not neglect those principles of republican equality and Christian humanity which have marked him as the sympathizing friend of men in every condition. The dignity and honor of labor he learned in the school of experience; the dignity and honor of manhood, whether in high or humble estate, he at all times sacredly revered. While engaged in the pursuit of commerce at Savannah, in accordance with convenience as well as the custom of the place, he became a slave-owner; but he soon became an emancipator, adding to freedom the assistance to support through life. A like temper and disposition pervaded all his relations with those who became employed under him; and after he had brought his great

works in Connecticut to prosperity and success, it was remarked by neighbors that he never seemed happier than when presiding over his workmen, on a holiday, at a table provided by his own bounty of free will. With him the success of labor found one of its keenest enjoyments in honoring labor.

In 1827 Colonel Hazard, at the age of twenty-five, sought a larger field for fortune under Providence. He removed to New York, and there laid the establishment of a commission house; became, by agency and proprietorship, connected with the line of packets sailing between that city and Savannah, a large receiver of Southern produce, and the resident purchaser for his own and other commercial houses at the South. Having been successfully engaged in this large and profitable commerce, he was overtaken with others by the unprecedented financial crash of 1837. The successes of previous years were partially swept away in the loss of credits which had been given, unpaid reclamations against consignments upon which he had accepted, and which had now greatly declined, and other mercantile losses. He was also extensively engaged in the importation of European merchandise, having an open credit with the house, eminent at that time, of George Wildes & Co., of London. To them he owed a large amount, every dollar of which had been by him remitted to them in bills of exchange, purchased and paid for, all of which were returned to him, protested for non-payment. At this juncture Mr. George Wildes, the head of the English house, came to New York, called upon his debtors, and proposed to receive in full settlement fifty per cent. of their indebtedness. The conduct of Colonel Hazard in this instance is specially reported to the writer by one who was a witness of the occurrence. His answer to Mr. Wildes was, that, fully aware of the severity of the time, he was taking the best possible care of both sides of his bill-book; but that, far from being willing to accept a compromise of his liabilities, he desired and intended to pay them in full, and that, continuing to pay out to the last dollar in his possession, he should make good any deficit

from future exertions. "It is extension," said he, "not compromise."

"Sir," said Colonel Hazard to Mr. Wildes, "I owe you this debt, with twenty-two per cent. exchange, ten per cent. damages upon the bills returned, and seven per cent. interest; I shall pay the whole; I must have extension; I accept no compromise; I give no security at the expense or risk of other creditors." This was easily arranged with the New York agent of the London house, Mr. Pickersgill, who was thoroughly conversant with the honor of his townsman. The settlement upon the basis of extension, not compromise, was realized according to the terms of it, and not a dollar of his liabilities of that crisis, or any other crisis, has remained outstanding. He passed through that memorable epoch in finance, not without serious loss, but with the greater benefit of paying every dollar of indebtedness, principal and interest, with credit not only exempt from harm, but positively strengthened by the firmness of his integrity and the gallantry of his conduct.

Colonel Hazard now became interested in the manufacture of gunpowder, a business which he subsequently pursued to a remarkable extent, and with equally remarkable results. His exertions in this field of enterprise culminated, in 1843, in his organizing the Hazard Powder Company, a corporation which has since become known in all parts of the United States. In 1845, realizing the importance of personal residence in the vicinity of an establishment about to become so extended, he removed to Enfield, Connecticut, where he resided through the remainder of his life. Under his charge and direction the manufactory rose to enlarged proportions. The boldness and balance of his executive talent in affairs became manifest in the extension of the establishment and the success of its operations, which have given it a prominence everywhere among all of its class.

A mill in the town of Canton, another in East Hartford, and a third at Scitico have been only aids and adjuncts to the main works lying in the secluded and beautiful valley of Fair Lawn in Enfield:

the last mentioned extending along the Scantic River, more than a mile in length, and covering an area of five hundred acres; employing a succession of waterfalls; comprising more than a hundred buildings, judiciously distributed and all put in requisition; a motive-power of thirty water-wheels and four steam-engines; and a variety of machinery, of which the magnitude is illustrated in thirty-six cast-iron rollers of eight tons each, separated but acting in unison. These in outline represent the vigor, enterprise, and skill which have obtained so high position in the ranks of competitors and in the markets of the country. Coming to Enfield with a resolute purpose to excel in his sphere of production, he elevated the reputation of his manufacture to a point not surpassed by any in this or other countries, as acknowledged by those engaged in all the leading works of internal improvement, and especially in the calls for the higher grades of powder coming from individuals and governments, as well of Great Britain as the United States. As an illustration of the great power and unerring exactness to which this enterprise attained under his direction, in a single instance during the Crimean war these works furnished, at short notice, to the English government ten thousand barrels of rifle and cannon powder, every pound of which was approved and accepted by the British Boards of Ordnance. In prosecuting these complicated undertakings, it has been a uniform policy to advance slowly upon the basis of solid capital created in the business; to shrink from no outlay required by progressive development; to count the cost and make sure the event.

He was the founder of the village of Hazardville, now become one of the busiest in Connecticut. Lord Bacon places at the head of benefactors, the founders of colonies or plantations. This definition, given to the world almost simultaneously with the establishment of the great colonies of New England, may, not immodestly, be extended to those persons who have applied genius and industry to planting in subdivision new villages, new centers of civil life, population, and beneficence. Accordingly it has been the custom



of the people of New England to rate her sons in this mode of account, and to bestow in their honor their individual names to the villages or plantations which they have established. In the present instance the foresight of the founder was equaled by his liberality. In the amplitude of space and reservation for public uses, in distribution of park, lawn, and shade-tree, he planted not only for the present, but for future generations. In the erection of churches—one of them of marked taste and elegance—an institute for education, and school-houses, he exhibited a similarly enlarged view and supported it by contributing from his own purse not less than thirty thousand dollars.

In politics Col. Hazard was steadfastly a Whig, during the existence of that party rich in men and annals. He was of that class, the old line, who were reluctant to recognize any leaders inferior to Henry Clay and Daniel Webster. Acting in this faith and practice he was for several years chairman of the Whig State Committee of Connecticut, contributing with equal liberality from his money and time. At one period he was quite generally regarded as being in the line of succession to the highest office in the State, but the paramount claims of his great business compelled him to decline all such suggestions and to turn political office over to those having time and love for it. For himself, willing to grant service to the public, he nevertheless deemed private station to be the post of honor. In 1852, when the Whig party met its crisis, he was chairman of the delegation sent from Connecticut to the National Convention which assembled at Baltimore. He advocated the nomination of Mr. Webster. In intimate association with Mr. Ashmun and Mr. Choate he invested his heart in the interest of the American senator and statesman. He was the personal friend of that great man and shared his confidence. In all the ballotings he adhered to his cause. The writer has heard from the lips of Mr. Choate an admirable description of the eloquence displayed by Col. Hazard in the numerous meetings held in that city preliminary to public action. He accepted as the truth of history, in



advance of its fulfillment, the memorable remark of Mr. Webster, that henceforth the Whig party would exist only in history. When this prophetic declaration came to practical fulfillment many felt released from the old ties and free to make a choice of the new. Accordingly, in companionship with many leading men of the time, he took side with the Democratic party. This relation brought him, in 1856, to the support of Mr. Buchanan, and he was placed at the head of the electoral ticket in Connecticut. Four years later, in the campaign of 1860, he occupied the same prominence in advocacy of Mr. Douglas for President; and at the convention held at Charleston and adjourned to Baltimore he adhered through the long-continued ballotings to the fortune of the new comcomer of the West. Upon the breaking out of the war in 1861, though continuing his attachment to associations and traditions which were now broken indeed, though still dear in memory, he upheld the national cause. Union and nationality he subscribed to and believed in, and risked for them all of present fortune and future hope. A broad patriotism uniformly predominated in his heart over every party, and the unity and honor of the republic were with him the first and the last thought.

Upon removing from New York to Enfield in 1845 he erected the elegant and spacious mansion which during his remaining years was consecrated to domestic happiness and private as well as public hospitality. It was a home which his prosperity furnished; which his heart most adorned; which his fellow-citizens for many years frequently enjoyed, and wished might continue his during the longest period allotted to human life. Here during almost a quarter of a century he lived in the possession of continued success, ample fortune, personal health, the respect and esteem of troops of friends, of the still larger circle of business and acquaintance, and above all else, of the broken, yet still strong ranks of family and kindred. He so dispensed the measure of his hospitality that by thousands who came hither it was reckoned to the credit of the commonwealth. He blended the genial qualities of the New England gentleman of

the former period with the tone of the later times which had become more abundant in the ways and means of living.

Under his roof youth and age found in companionship a cordial sympathy; the wealthy met with a reception not disappointing expectation; the poor and humble found generosity in all the household, and a friend in its head. His was the old New England homestead reproduced, enlarged and enlivened by the modern generation, perpetuating the virtues of the past and embellishing them from the greater opportunities of the present time. He will long be remembered as the central and commanding figure of the place. He possessed marked advantages of person which were fitted to attract attention and respect. The proportions of one of nature's noblemen were in him gracefully combined, but his own magnetic power in social life gave to them their highest tone and color:—

“A combination and a form, indeed,  
To give the world assurance of a man.”

Colonel Hazard died May 7, 1868. Cordial were the expressions, both near and from afar, from individuals and the public press, betokening the general sense of loss. Many thousands, comprising persons in all the walks of life, assembled at the funeral. In all the long-drawn valley of the Connecticut, studded with the homes of the cultured and the good, rarely has a man passed away whose death has been so keenly felt and widely mourned. The following passages taken from a lengthened article in the *Springfield Republican*, were justly deemed to express the sentiments of the entire community:—

“It is a representative life and character that has thus passed away. They could hardly have existed in any other country than America. Of humble origin in Rhode Island, without the advantages of culture, he began his manhood life as a mechanic—a house painter—and worked in New York and vicinity, and in the South. From this he stepped into an insurance agency for the Hartford companies in the metropolis, and out of this he passed,

some twenty-five years ago, to the great work of his business life, the manufacture of powder. Beginning it in a small way, in the town of Enfield, Connecticut, whither he at once removed, it grew, under his vigorous force and instinctive faith, to vast proportions. The Mexican war came first, then the European wars, and last our great civil war, and all the time the widening demand for powder for public works and internal improvements fed and stimulated his enterprise, until he had become the most extensive powder manufacturer in the whole world. His principal mills were at Hazardville, in his own town; but others were located in different parts of Hartford County. Nearly every State and Territory of the nation had its special depot of Hazard's powder, land and buildings always belonging to him, so that he was a real estate owner in more States and sections of the republic than any other citizen. In the South, in California, in Colorado, and other distant sections, he had fine store-houses, and transacted an extensive business.

“But though his capacity and fame as a business man and a capitalist were thus sufficient to place him in the front rank among materialistic-judging Americans, this was not what most impressed those who met him—what they thought of in his society—what gained him respect and affection with family and friends and neighbors. The real distinction of the man was big-heartedness. His was, indeed, a royal nature; its force, large as this was, was so softened and sweetened by all quick and fine sensibilities; by such generosity of feeling, such enthusiasm of expression, that every heart warmed in his presence and did not think of his powder nor of his wealth, but of his rich endowments of manhood and womanhood, and gave him its sympathy, not from any conviction of reason or any influence of intellect, but from genuine irresistible human feeling. He was not a man to drive, or perhaps to convince,—for he had a stubborn faith in his own instincts,—but to melt. He was conquered, as he conquered, by sympathy and good fellowship. His generous nature flowed out in all manly ways, and to all good objects; in politics, in religious matters, in social relations, every-

where and on every topic. In politics, his one instinct was nationality, his one inspiration, Americanism, and whether as Whig or conservative Democrat, he had no platform but the Union and the Constitution, no symbol but the flag. His interest in public affairs led him to occasional political addresses, in which his enthusiasm and his faith made him always successful. He was the friend and frequent companion, while living, of Mr. Webster; and in the year 1859, we think, was the Democratic candidate for the lieutenant-governor of Connecticut.

“Col. Hazard was sixty-six years old. He leaves a widow and three daughters. Other children, including sons, he had buried; and some of the richness of his character was due to the touch of death and the experience of sorrow.”









*A. G. Raine*

## JAMES G. BLAINE, OF MAINE,

SPEAKER OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



THE Speakership of the National House of Representatives is justly regarded as a post of peculiar honor, as it is one of great labor and responsibility. It requires in its occupant a thorough knowledge of Parliamentary Law in all its complexity, acuteness in analyzing, great rapidity in decision, firmness in administration, all combined with personal energy of the highest order and rare physical endurance.

James Gillespie Blaine, of the State of Maine, the present Speaker of the House, is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born at "Indian Hill," the seat of his family, in the County of Washington, in the year 1830. His ancestors were Scotch and Scotch Irish, who settled in the colony of Pennsylvania about the year 1746. The great-grandfather of Speaker Blaine was a distinguished officer of the Revolutionary War; originally a colonel of the Pennsylvania line, and for the last four years of the struggle was Commissary-General of the Northern Department. His distinguished and patriotic service may be found recorded in the "Archives of Pennsylvania." Honorable mention is also made of him in several of our standard histories; and in *Appleton's Cyclopædia* it is related that "during the *dark winter* at Valley Forge, the preservation of the American army from starvation was in a great degree owing to the exertions and sacrifices of Colonel Blaine."

The Speaker's early education was attended to with great care. His father, Ephraim Lyon Blaine, was a gentleman of culture and high social position, and bestowed every attention upon the training of his son. The County of Washington was always famed for its

excellent schools, and its chief literary institution, the "College of Washington and Jefferson," stands deservedly high in the Middle, Western, and Southwestern States, from which it has long enjoyed a generous patronage. At this college Mr. Blaine graduated in 1847 at the early age of seventeen, in a highly distinguished class of thirty-seven members. Mr. Blaine was the youngest member of the class, but divided the first honor with a Virginian, some four years his senior and his most intimate friend. At the Commencement Mr. Blaine delivered an oration on "The Duty of an Educated American," which attracted a great deal of attention from the matured and well-considered observations it contained, and the ambitious industry it foreshadowed.

After his graduation, Mr. Blaine lived some three years in the South as a teacher, during which time he was himself a student of history, general literature, and law; fitting himself for the editorial profession, which he entered on his return to Pennsylvania. In 1852, when in his twenty-third year, he settled in Maine, and shortly afterwards became editor of the *Kennebec Journal*, and subsequently of the *Portland Daily Advertiser*, both leading Republican papers in Maine.

In 1858 Mr. Blaine was elected to the Legislature of Maine from the city of Augusta. In the early part of 1864, Mr. Blaine spoke on the propriety of the general government paying the "war debts of the loyal States," and during the discussion he spoke quite lengthily of the ability of our government to carry on the war in which we were then so fiercely engaged. That part of Mr. Blaine's speech was the subject of great discussion at the time, and, indeed, became one of the campaign documents of the Union Republican party in the Presidential contest of 1864.

In the winter of 1865-6 Mr. Blaine showed himself particularly energetic in passing laws upon measures of reconstruction. In the early part of January, 1866, Mr. Blaine proposed a resolution, which finally became the basis of that part relating to Congressional representation in the Fourteenth Amendment. Previous to

Mr. Blaine's resolution, the drift appeared to be to base representation on the voting population; his resolution, however, caused an entire change. He introduced the first resolution when they were preparing the modification of the above bill. Mr. Blaine supported the modification by a speech which was the object of much attention.

In the second session of the Thirty-ninth Congress, he showed himself equally as prominent and influential as in former sessions. A military bill of Mr. Stevens gave occasion to the "Blaine Amendment," which was the subject of general discussion in all the papers for some time. It has not passed into history under the name of the "Blaine Amendment," but is substantially the same, although better known as the "Howard Amendment," or perhaps the "Sherman Amendment." Mr. Blaine has also showed himself very able in some of his discussions on finance. He was the first one to declare against the Pendleton theory as heresy. In the early part of the December session of 1867, he made an eloquent speech against the payment of our bonds in greenbacks, instead of gold.

We here give the closing paragraphs of Mr. Blaine's first speech regarding the Pendleton theory. They seem almost to have been prophetic, when we look at the measures since enunciated in the National Republican Platform:

"The remedy for our financial troubles, Mr. Chairman, will not be found in a superabundance of depreciated paper currency. It lies in the opposite direction; and the sooner the nation finds itself on a specie basis, the sooner will the public treasury be freed from embarrassment, and private business relieved from discouragement. Instead, therefore, of entering upon a reckless and boundless issue of legal tenders, with their consequent depression, if not destruction, of value, let us set resolutely at work and make those already in circulation equal to so many gold dollars. When that result shall be accomplished, we can proceed to pay our five-twenties either in coin or paper, for the one would be the equivalent of the other. But to proceed deliberately on a scheme of depreciating our legal tenders, and then forcing the holders of government bonds to accept them in payment, would resemble, in point of honor, the policy of a merchant, who, with abundant resources and prosperous business, should devise a plan for throwing discredit on his own notes with the view of having them bought up at a discount ruinous to the holders and immediately profitable to his own knavish pocket. This comparison may faintly illustrate the wrongfulness of the policy, but not its consummate folly; for in the case of the government, unlike the merchant,



the stern necessity would recur of making good in the end, by the payment of hard coin, all the discount that might be gained by the temporary substitution of paper.

"Disregarding all such schemes as at once unworthy and unprofitable, let us direct our policy steadily, but not rashly, toward the resumption of specie payment. And when we have attained that end—easily attainable at no distant day if the proper policy be pursued—we can all unite in some honorable plan for the redemption of the five-twenty bonds, and the issuing instead thereof a new series of bonds which can be more favorably placed at a lower rate of interest. When we shall have reached the specie basis, the value of United States securities will be so high in the money markets of the world, that we can command our own terms. We can then call in our five-twenties according to the very letter and spirit of the bond, and adjust a new loan that will be eagerly sought for by capitalists, and will be free from those elements of discontent that in some measure surround the existing funded debt of the country."

On the 4th of March, 1869, the day of General Grant's inauguration, Mr. Blaine was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives. That place is so conspicuously in the public eye, and the manner in which Mr. Blaine discharges his duties is so well known, that we do not deem it needful to say more than that he is the worthy successor of the eminent gentleman who on the same day was transferred to the Vice-Presidency.

Mr. Blaine is an indefatigable worker, a fine statistician ; he reasons logically and possesses great fluency of speech. He is a perfect master of parliamentary law. He has often been well tested by occupying the Speaker's chair temporarily. In whatever position he is placed he retains his dignity, good humor, and self-possession. We give a description taken from the New York *Tribune* near the close of the Thirty-ninth Congress: "Mr. Blaine, whose amendment excites the opposition of the great Pennsylvanian, is metallic: you can not conceive how a shot should pierce him, for there seem no joints to his harness. He is a man who knows what the weather was yesterday morning in Dakota, what the Emperor's policy will be touching Mexico, on what day of the week the 16th of December proximo will fall, who is the chairman of the school-committee in Kennebunk, what is the best way of managing the national debt, together with all the other interests of to-day, which anybody else would stagger under. How he does it, nobody knows. He is always in his seat. He must absorb details by assimilation at his

finger-ends. As I said, he is clear metal. His features are made in a mold; his attitudes are those of a bronze figure; his voice clinks; and, as you know, he has ideas fixed as brass."

It it shall please God to prolong his life for still many years and continue him in vigorous health, Mr. Blaine has before him a career of increased usefulness and honor. He possesses sterling qualities of mind and heart, qualities indeed that will ever command the admiration and respect of his fellow-countrymen.

Speaker Blaine is socially an affable, agreeable man, and possesses a fine personal appearance. In every position he has held he has shown himself worthy of the public trust reposed in him.



## GENERAL OLIVER H. PALMER.

BY J. ALEXANDER PATTEN.



N earnest activity, and success solely through personal effort, are the characteristics of the career of General Oliver H. Palmer, now treasurer of that great corporation, the Western Union Telegraph Company. His spheres of action have been widely different; but in all of them he has shown mental and moral capabilities of the highest order. Self-reliant, conscientious, energetic, and honorable, he has won his way to honors and emoluments, which afford the best evidence of both his ability and character.

He was born October 5, 1814, at Walworth, Wayne County, New York, about twelve miles from the city of Rochester. His father, Nathan Palmer, was a native of Granville, Washington County, New York; and his mother, whose maiden name was Lamb, was a native of Welles, in the State of Vermont. In 1806 his parents *emigrated* to Wayne County, then a far western region, and a vast wilderness, where they ever after resided. The tract of land selected was an immense forest of six hundred acres. All the personal effects of the settlers had to be transported on horseback four miles into the forest, for the nearest settlement and wagon-road was that distance from the point of location.

The subject of our notice first saw the light in one of the primitive log-houses of the times, and was brought up, after the manner of frontier farmers' sons, to the hardest work. He had slight common-school advantages until he was sixteen years of age. After that, and until he was twenty-one, he worked on the farm during the summer, and taught school during the winter. From an early age he evinced a great desire to acquire an education, and at his

maturity had fair attainments as an English scholar. In the midst of this solitude of nature, and of the labor of the pioneer, he felt an earnest prompting to prepare himself for a wider scope of efforts in the future. In a statement referring to these early days, he says: "After faithfully serving out my time, as we used to call it at home, I informed my father that I had determined to see if I could not contrive some way by which I could acquire a better education—that I proposed to do so without calling upon him for any aid—that I might want a few dollars to start with, but I thought I should be able to work my way, after a short time, and all that I wanted of him was his approbation."

The first two years of his majority were passed at the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, at Lima, New York, where he soon procured a situation as tutor, and was thus enabled to pay his own way. He fitted himself to enter the Sophomore class at Union College, but circumstances occurred that made it necessary, as a matter of duty, that he should remain, for a time at least, on the farm. In January, 1839, he entered the law office of Judge Theron R. Strong, of Palmyra. This gentleman's attention had been especially attracted to young Palmer by his power exhibited in a debate on the slavery question, in the village meeting-house. He commenced study with his usual resolution in such matters. His plan was to read from five in the morning until nine A. M., attend to his business duties of the office until eight P. M., and then resume reading until eleven at night. This programme was faithfully carried out for two years. In July, 1842, he was duly admitted to the bar as an attorney and counselor of the Supreme Court, and as a solicitor and counselor in Chancery. Judge Strong took his seat in Congress in 1839, and much of the responsibility of his extensive practice devolved upon Mr. Palmer, and in June, 1844, he became an equal partner in the business. He thus remained until October, 1851, when he removed to Rochester, and entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, George H. Mumford, Esq.

During 1840 and 1841, in addition to the duties of professional



life, he was editor of the leading Democratic paper of the county, a weekly journal. In 1842 he was appointed First Judge of the Courts of Wayne County, which office he held for over two years, and then resigned. He finally retired from practice in April, 1863, to take the field as a colonel of volunteer troops. He enjoyed a constantly increasing practice while at the bar, and left it with the universal respect of his legal brethren.

In November, 1843, he was united in marriage with Miss Susan Augusta Hart, daughter of the late Truman Hart, then of the interesting age of nineteen years, and a person of rare beauty and accomplishments.

For several years prior to 1848 his views on the subject of slavery had undergone considerable modification from those held by the masses of the Democratic party. Consequently, in that year he became active as a supporter of the Free-Soil Van Buren platform, as adopted at Buffalo. He subsequently became identified with the Republican party, and worked earnestly for the election of Abraham Lincoln.

On the breaking out of the civil war in 1861, he immediately took an active part on the side of the government. In July, 1862, he became a member of a committee to take charge of the raising of troops in Monroe County. The One Hundred and Eighth Regiment was duly raised and equipped, but it was found difficult to obtain a person to take command of it. One day, in a fit of desperation at this condition of matters, he decided that, if no one else could be found willing to assume the responsibility, unfitted as he regarded himself for such a position, he would take it. To his astonishment, the committee at once recommended him to Governor Morgan for the colonelcy, and on the 28th July he received notice of his appointment.

It will be remembered that this was at one of the most critical periods of the war, and General Palmer, who had studied closely the varying aspects of the contest, saw at a glance the great peril of the country and the urgent necessity of decided, vigorous, and

prompt action in response to President Lincoln's call of July 1st for placing more troops immediately in the field.

McClellan's fine army had been demoralized—Richmond, which was in its grasp, and Lee's army at its mercy, through cowardice or incompetency of the commanding general, had been left unmolested, and the way to our national capital opened to the Confederate forces. It was at this juncture and in this exigency that men of the quick perception, decided action, and patriotic impulses of General Palmer, sprang to the breach and, under God, saved the nation.

The measure of this man's patriotism was great indeed. The echoes of the guns of Fort Sumter had scarcely been heard when he threw his whole soul into the work of the contest. And now, though his age, and the situation of his family and business, offered the greatest discouragement to such an undertaking, he determined to accept the appointment which had been so unexpectedly conferred upon him. He at once came to the conclusion that he must accept or go to Canada, or some other seclusion; that he could not, in such an emergency, walk the streets of Rochester, or repose, with any degree of quiet conscience, under the flag of his country, declining to stand by it or go to its rescue, and to death, if need be, when so called upon.

His patriotic action did not pass unnoticed by his fellow-citizens of Rochester. A letter addressed to him, dated Rochester, August 14, 1862, and now before us, is as follows:—

**"MY NEIGHBOR AND ESTERMED FRIEND:—**

"I desire to contribute something toward your outfit for the public service. Allow me to defray the expense of your sword, pistols, saddle, and bridle. Please draw on me for the cost of these articles at your convenience.

"None but your intimate friends can fully appreciate the exalted motives that prompt you to exchange the quiet comforts of home and family for the privations and turmoils and dangers of war. The anarchy and ruin which threaten our country will be averted, if self-sacrificing patriotism like yours pervades the people. If it does not, we are unworthy to enjoy the mild and beneficent government under which we have lived in security and peace."

Colonel Palmer at once assumed command of the One Hundred

and Eighth Regiment, which was the second regimental organization in the State under the call of July 3, 1862. On the 19th of August, the regiment took its departure, under orders for the seat of war, by way of New York, nine hundred and eighty strong, officers and men. Reaching Washington on the 23d, it was ordered into camp about seven miles north of the Potomac. Space will not allow us to trace all the numerous movements of this regiment in the active campaign upon which it immediately entered. Suffice it to say that it took a memorable part in General McClellan's campaign in Maryland and Virginia, including the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, and in General Burnside's movement upon Fredericksburg. Colonel Palmer exhibited not only remarkable efficiency in maintaining the drill of the regiment, but great heroism in the field. At Fredericksburg he commanded a brigade, which was in the advance division. On the date of receiving his first order to leave camp, to take part in a movement against the enemy, he wrote the following noble words: "I feel that I am strictly in the line of a sacred duty. Nothing but a stern sense of duty would ever have induced me to leave the quiet and comforts of home, wife, and children, for the rough and tumble of camp life, and the hazards and turmoil of war; and it is better for my children, and those that may come after them, that the country should be saved, and our free institutions preserved and handed down to posterity, than that my life should be spared. What are a few years of man's life compared with the untold blessings that will follow generations to come, if, by the sacrifice, our beneficent government can be maintained?" Later he writes: "We are now constantly under arms. The universe is my bedchamber. I retire by the light of the stars, and seldom condescend to take off boots or spurs; generally breakfast and dine in my saddle, of course, on hard cracker, or nothing." Again: "I feel heartily sorry for the poor men. In our marches many of them fall out, as we call it, but really fall down by the way-side from sheer exhaustion, and die, poor fellows, as brutes die. My heart bleeds for them, but

I am as powerless as an infant to aid them. I am but a cog in the great wheel of the army, and have to turn when the power is applied." From the battle-field of Antietam, September 18, 1862, he writes: "The balls and shells flew like hailstones all over, under, and around me. I thank God on account of my dear wife, and on account of my darling but helpless children, as I never thanked Him before, that I am to-day alive and sound, and I pray that His protection may continue to shield me. My trust is in Him, and I feel resigned to whatever fate is in the future." On the 19th he writes: "We lay upon the field until nine o'clock yesterday morning, without food, blankets, or shelter. I had no idea of the horrors of war till I find myself suddenly in the midst of them, and I am ready and willing, horrid as it is, if I can aid in any degree to end this accursed rebellion, to take my chances, leaving results in the hands of an overruling Providence." Of the attack on the heights of Fredericksburg, he writes: "It was an advance to disaster and death. We had to cross the plain about eighty rods in the face of a destructive, accurate, and deadly fire, and then we were brought up against a high stone wall, protected in front by an impassable canal, and against sand-banks protected by insurmountable abatis that no infantry in the world could overcome, while from this wall and from these sand-banks were poured down upon us torrents of grape and canister, and lead from the unerring rifles of the sharpshooters, and we could fire only by guess. It was too hot. One-third of my brigade was disabled in twenty minutes, and I was compelled to fall back. . . . The scene was frightful, but intensely exciting. New brigades of fresh troops were forming in line and advancing, hoping to be more successful, but I knew they were doomed to disappointment and death. Broken and shattered companies, regiments, and brigades were falling back. Dead and wounded officers and men were being borne to the rear. Some in blankets, more on the shoulders of comrades. You would see one here with one arm, another there with one leg, trying to get back; some moaning, some swearing. Occasionally a poor fellow, trying



to save the half not shot away, would disappear in fragments by a solid shot, or amidst the smoke of an exploded shell."

Ill health at length obliged Colonel Palmer to ask to be relieved from his command. On the 6th of March, 1863, he took leave of his regiment, near Falmouth, in a patriotic and touching address. Its closing words were as follows:—

"Soldiers, I shall watch you with intense interest. I shall feel your sufferings and your hardships. I shall rejoice in your fame and success. Your glory will cheer me wherever I am; but your shame would crush my heart. Remember that I own an interest in those once bright and beautiful, now scarred and tattered, but still more beautiful, banners, which I value above all price. They bear record of your valor. The threescore and ten stars made in them by rebel bullets at the battle of Antietam form a constellation worthy almost of adoration. Stand by them. And when you return again to your peaceful home, bring them with you that I may again see them, and unite with you in the appropriate action for their lasting preservation.

"Soldiers, may God's blessings and favor follow you. Farewell."

On the 22d of May, 1866, he was commissioned as Brigadier-General by brevet, for faithful and meritorious service. It was a considerable time before he recovered his health.

After his return to Rochester, he was invited to contribute his talents and energies to the management of the Western Union Telegraph Company, in the important office of treasurer. He accepted the position, and has since been identified with the company. When the offices were removed to New York, he also removed to that city, where he has become a permanent resident. The responsibility and duties of this office are very onerous, and during the summer of 1870 he sought relaxation in Europe. He enjoys and deserves a handsome salary. He is also one of the directors of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

Although thoroughly acquainted with political affairs and familiar with the current history of parties, he has persistently declined to make politics a profession, or allow the baubles of public office to interfere with or tempt him from the legitimate pursuit of his business. In fact while he appreciates true statesmanship which tends to secure the greatest good to the greatest number,



and to advance the best interests of our common country, he has a just contempt for mere partisan management.

General Palmer is above the average height, erect and graceful. His head is large, being more long than round, with a prominent and handsome brow. All the features are regular, and the expression is cheerful and amiable. His eyes have a keen glance, while they are never anything but kindly. His manners are polished and genial, and there are few men who possess more captivating qualities in social intercourse. In his nature and actions he is frank and exact to truth and justice in every particular. He has a heart in which consideration and sympathy for his fellow-men have no small share. Unswerving in his integrity, public-spirited, and zealous in every business interest, he is justly regarded as one of the most valuable men of the day.

It is worthy of thought that the positions of influence and trust to which General Palmer has attained have been reached from that humble log-house in the wilderness as a starting point. First, he sought knowledge, and he gained much even while he labored at the severe toil of the newly cleared farm. Then, filled with ambition that made light of personal privations and defied all obstacles, he began his battle of life, which he has continued to its present stage of unqualified success and honor.





Yours Truly  
Marshall Lefferts

## MARSHALL LEFFERTS.

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THE men whose personal history the world needs are not those who, by some successful venture, burst suddenly into fortune and fame; nor, indeed, those who, by shrewd calculations and spider-like patience, devote life to the attainment of wealth. Nor does it need even the history of genius, brilliant as may be its story and dazzling its work. The first excite to unhealthy ambition, to the planting of the crown of life upon a brow of gold. They subordinate the elements of a true character which gathers to it as its prime necessities a regnant fidelity to truth, a fellowship with purity, a sympathy with all who struggle, an ambition to brighten life for others. The latter has the attraction only of a picture which we may admire but cannot imitate. The exceptional nature of genius robs it of stimulus. It is beyond reach. Men of genius are like "stars who dwell apart." They resemble the stars in their coldness, their distance, and their sheen. The true man is to be sought for less high. He is to be found where the masses of men are, toiling with them, helping them, devising plans which touch the springs of human interest, seeking success through honor and persistent labor. Such men, haply, are multiplying. The world needs them. To record any such man's history is alike a duty and a pleasure. For such a reason we write this.

General Marshall Lefferts is a name well-known in New York, in or near which he has spent his life. He was born in 1821 on Long Island, two and a half miles east of the present Brooklyn Ferry, known then, as now, as Bedford. Brooklyn was at that time the merest village. Various branches of the Lefferts family had settled

on large and productive farms in that region long before the Revolution. Some of the ancient mansions occupied by them still remain, quietly resisting the encroachments of modern improvements, although surrounded by the broad pavements and sandstone fronts which mark the swell of population and increasing wealth. In one of these suburban homes General Lefferts was born, and is therefore now forty-nine years of age, a man not yet at his meridian, and with a look and step of forty. His education, early begun and early ended, was received at the county school. At fifteen he became clerk in a leading hardware store. Here he contracted a love for iron which still holds him. Leaving this post because of delicate health, he attached himself to the staff of chief-engineer Stodart, then engaged in the survey of Brooklyn. This at once gave him health and led him to the study of civil engineering, which he has continued ever since. By persistent application, natural aptitude, and fidelity, he soon became one of the staff of assistant engineers, and for three years was connected with this important survey. In a similar capacity he was connected with the survey of Greenwood, the most beautiful of all the cities of the dead.

But engineering did not give him scope enough; his active mind craved a wider field. After a time he gave up the chain and theodolite and returned to mercantile life, entering as clerk one of the oldest and most influential of the importing houses of New York. In less than three years he became a partner therein, and until 1852 was the active manager of its affairs in America, there being branches of the house in London, Liverpool, and in China. No better certificate of capacity could be given.

In 1852, stimulated by a desire for more personal enterprise, and looking forward to a largely increased development of the manufacturing industries of the country, Mr. Lefferts withdrew from the partnership referred to, and entered into the manufacture of iron from the ore, interesting himself also in the making and introduction of galvanized iron. The galvanizing of iron had been at-



tempted, and, to a limited extent, had been successful in the hands of other parties before, but now it was perfected and brought into vast national use under the processes perfected by Mr. Lefferts. For several years he prosecuted this popular trade with great success. A large number of prominent houses now continue the manufacture of galvanized iron as a specialty, so greatly has the demand increased under the improvements thus effected.

A new field, however, was now to open, and Mr. Lefferts entered it with instinctive zeal. In 1849, while still connected with the mercantile house to which reference has already been made, Alexander Bain, the distinguished electrician and inventor, arrived in America, bearing to him letters of introduction. This led Mr. Lefferts at once to an examination of the invention of Mr. Bain, generally known by the name of the chemical telegraph, to see its value, and the wide field apparently open for its application. Associating with him a number of the wealthy merchants of New York and Boston, Mr. Lefferts, with characteristic promptitude and care, constructed a telegraph-line between these cities, and from New York to Buffalo, of the most permanent and stable character, to be worked by this new system. This line was so well built and so vigorously manned and managed, and Mr. Lefferts showed so much skill and energy in its organization and direction, and so popularized the telegraph by its liberal and thorough administration, that a splendid service of plate was presented to him, bearing the following inscription :—

“To Marshall Lefferts, Esq., President of the New York and New England, and New York State Telegraph Companies, from the Stockholders and Associate Press of New York City, as a token of the satisfaction and confidence inspired by his efficient services in advancing the cause and credit of the telegraph system—the noblest enterprise of this eventful age. June 25, 1850.”

This, we believe, is the only instance in which a like expression of appreciation has been conferred by the American press.

Various vexatious and perplexing lawsuits were, however, soon commenced against the owners of the new line for infringement of the Morse patents. With the merits of the controversy we have

nothing to do; it led, however, to a consolidation of the new line with what were known as the "Morse lines," or rather with that part of them under the control of F. O. J. Smith. In this consolidation Mr. Lefferts refused to be a party, even as a director, and retired from telegraphy until 1860, when he commenced his plans for constructing lines of telegraph on what is known as the automatic or fast system of transmission. This movement of course arrested attention, and resulted in the purchase of the patents therefor by the American Telegraph Company, into which Mr. Lefferts was induced to enter as that Company's electric engineer.

In this new relation General Lefferts at once shone. Large discretionary power was given him by its high-minded and liberal directory. He comprehended the necessity of a stable, well-built structure, in order to be able to popularize the system, reduce the cost of maintenance, and render telegraphic property valuable. At once, therefore, the whole field was put under review. Large sections of line were rebuilt, the wires were all carefully insulated and hung, the machinery was all examined and perfected, the labor of the offices graded and regulated, the whole staff was re-organized, and the utmost efficiency in every department established. In all this General Lefferts enjoyed the hearty co-operation and approbation of the Board of the American Telegraph Company, a Company who will always be remembered as one of the most efficient, the most liberal, the most successful ever organized in America, and for which it is chiefly, perhaps solely, indebted to its able engineer.

General Lefferts also shone as an engineer and electrician. He was the first in America who made and applied to practical use instruments for the detection of electric faults; he was the first to reduce the resistance of relays to common standards; also the first to institute through wires, numbering them, and recording their daily working. He was also early appointed consulting engineer of the Atlantic Cable Company resident in America, an office which he still retains. In all this varied service there was evinced

an aptitude and a vigor which secured him the most unbounded confidence.

In 1866 the great telegraphic organizations of the country, fearful of complications arising from separate control, were consolidated under the charter of the Western Union Company, thus forming the largest telegraphic organization in the world. Of this gigantic corporation General Lefferts was chosen engineer, and which important post he still holds. To him the public, as well as the great Company he serves, are indebted for the most complete and equitable system of tariff ever devised. Its prominent feature is in that it discards all routes in calculating rates of tariff, and is based on air-line distances. All places thus stand alike.

Perhaps no citizen not educated to a military life has been more identified with stirring military operations upon which the public peace and national safety depended. In 1851 Mr. Lefferts became a private in the now renowned Seventh Regiment of the city of New York. In one year thereafter he was elected Lieutenant-Colonel, and, in 1859, became its Colonel. Under his command the Regiment, to which Colonel Lefferts devoted much care and time, attained a high reputation not only at home but abroad. The Prince of Wales, at the time of his visit here, remarked as it deployed before him, "It is the finest regiment I have ever seen in any country." The *London United Service* about the same time said of it, "The civilized world does not possess a finer corps." Its drill was perfect, its members were of the highest character, and largely connected with the oldest and best families of the city. It was the pride of New York. In 1861, when the guns of Charleston began their fire on Sumter, the Seventh Regiment, through its Colonel, at once reported itself ready for service, and was the first regiment to leave the city for the seat of war; it was thoroughly patriotic and united. There can be no doubt that the example thus given of its ready patriotism at that critical period gave the first impulse which led to the immense enrollments which followed. It was the signal which made thousands follow. Its

march down Broadway, New York, amid the tears and cheers of the people, will never be forgotten. Its arrival in Washington gave the first gleam of that spirit which finally brought to the nation victory and peace. And when dismissed, after fulfilling its first important and successful mission, Adjutant-General Thomas issued a special order, making known the high satisfaction of the War Department with the service rendered at so critical a moment of the nation's history; and as it returned from its first short and stirring mission, the city of New York testified its thanks and admiration by the following resolution of the Union Defence Executive Committee:—

*“Resolved,—*That this committee desire to express their cordial recognition of the efficient services rendered to the cause of the country at a critical emergency of its public affairs by the Seventh Regiment of New York State militia, commanded by Colonel Marshall Lefferts; and sharing fully in the general feeling of gratification which pervades the community at learning that the commanding general of the United States Army, under the sanction of the President of the United States, has acknowledged, in special general orders, ‘the important service rendered by that regiment in an hour of dark and trying necessity,’ the committee desire to unite their congratulations with those of their fellow-citizens in extending a welcome hand to cheer the return of a body of soldiers who have conferred such high honor on the city of New York.”

In like manner, in 1862, when the Capital was threatened, and in 1863 when Lee swept into Pennsylvania, General Lefferts left New York with his gallant command with the same promptitude which had marked their first departure. In the latter year a more perilous and delicate service than that connected with the operations against the Confederate army fell to the Seventh Regiment while yet at Frederick, Maryland, of which city Colonel Lefferts was at the time military governor. The eleventh of July, 1863, was the day for the execution of the conscription under the enrollment act in the city of New York. On the thirteenth, New York was in the jaws of a great riot. For three days terror reigned, and murder, pillage, and general violence and robbery prevailed; the contagion was spreading to other cities. On the fourteenth, news of this outbreak reached the camp at Frederick, and General Lefferts was ordered



forthwith to New York with his command. In less than five hours the Seventh Regiment was on its way home, and by its presence and activity soon restored the city to peace and order. The record of these dark days shows how much New York is indebted to the vigor and discretion of General Lefferts, as well as to the noble men who served under him, for the final suppression of a riot which threatened at one time to be widespread and desolating. And, as at the first, so throughout the war, the regiment, under its patriotic head, obeyed every summons sent to it. When the contest ended, and peace came to the wearied nation, General Lefferts resigned. It was declined, however, in very complimentary terms, by the Governor of the State, who offered him a brigade and commission, that his services might be thus secured. This, however, General Lefferts declined, and in June, 1866, after thirteen years' service as major, lieutenant-colonel, and colonel, commanding the regiment through the most trying and brilliant period of its record, secured acceptance of his long-tendered resignation. He was soon after chosen commandant of the Veteran Corps, which he now holds, but has been separated from active service for several years.

General Lefferts is a great lover of books; especially such as treat of scientific subjects, and has, perhaps, the best electric library in New York. He is a member of the New York Historical Society, also of the Geographical and Statistical Society, of whose council for several years he has been one of the most active members.

General Lefferts has always been popular among his associates and those serving under him. He places no walls between himself and his subordinates, and has always been distinguished for a desire to render their labor agreeable and their remuneration just. His duties do not prevent him from entering largely into sympathy with the poor of New York, in some of the organizations for the relief of which he is an active member and counselor. He has also provided himself with expensive apparatus for electrical displays, which he uses in giving free lectures in the homes for the destitute. Occupying thus a position of honor and usefulness, cultivating



alike his head and heart by his daily employments, his life is alike honorable, successful, and beneficent. May many years yet be given him to further illustrate the success which attends fidelity, and the honor which follows all men who, in imitation of Him who with benignant hand raised the poor and blessed them, seek to brighten the path of the lowly and thus irradiate their own.






*Demas Barnes*

HON DEMAS BARNES

MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## HON. DEMAS BARNES.

BY J. ALEXANDER PATTEN.

 BIOGRAPHY has a twofold office. It is a narrative of facts, and a teacher of the lessons of life. It shows where and how men have made battle with discouragements, and its teachings are lamps to guide the feet of those still struggling for success. The biography here to be related affords facts of great interest, and significant lessons of moral heroism.

Hon. Demas Barnes was born in Gorham Township, Ontario County, New York, April 4, 1827. He was reared upon a farm. Having lost his father while yet an infant, his life from the days of his cradle was one of hardship. At a very early age he gave evidence that he fully recognized his condition and duties. The judgment and heroism then displayed were worthy of matured years, and gave proof of the stamina of character of which he has since been so marked an example.

At length he made up his mind that the farm was no place for him. Consequently at the early age of fourteen, we find him leaving his country home. All his worldly effects were tied in a cotton handkerchief. He set his face toward the far-distant city of New York, as the goal of all his hopes. He was obliged to work his way. After weeks of travel, he reached the city without the price of a breakfast in his pocket. Not finding any employment, he earned his first meal by manual labor on the docks. An interesting coincidence of his career may be here mentioned. Passing the Park Theater, which stood in Park Row, one evening soon after his arrival, its brilliancy invited him to enter, but upon counting his money he had not enough to procure admission. That ancient landmark in New York, it is well-known, was burnt December 16,

1848, and where it then stood is now one of the finest warehouses in the United States, which is owned by Mr. Barnes, and valued at over a quarter of a million of dollars.

After a time he went back to the country. Like so many of the country youth who go to cities, he found it difficult to succeed without friends and influence. He had gained considerable experience of the world, however, for he was one who kept his eyes and ears wide open. At eighteen he took charge of a country store, of which he became the proprietor two years later. When twenty-two he embarked as a wholesale merchant in the city of New York. During these years he supported a widowed mother, and half brothers and sisters by her subsequent marriage. These cares, however, instead of weakening his resolution and resources, seemed to add to them. He said "Now is the time they need assistance, at another time it will be too late; I can wait, they shall not." Refraining from all expensive luxuries, sleeping upon his own counter, eating but two meals a day, working eighteen hours out of the twenty-four, he toiled with an energy and directness of purpose that secured the full realization of all his plans. Those dependent upon him were all cared for, his sisters were educated, and at the same time he accumulated wealth in a most remarkable manner. He soon became recognized as one of the leading merchants of the world, with houses in New York, San Francisco, New Orleans, and Montreal.

He also embarked largely in the gold and other mineral interests of the Western States, and was elected president of several mining companies. This was in 1863, before the Pacific Railroad was commenced, and little was really known on which to form opinions regarding prospective results. When it was proposed to sell stock of the companies in which he was interested, he refused to do it without a more exact knowledge, fearing that innocent persons might be injured. In 1865, he undertook the arduous task of visiting the mines of Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California. With characteristic promptness he stepped into a wagon at Atchison, and crossed the continent, making such examinations as were necessary. He



remained in San Francisco only three days, and returned home by way of Panama. While absent he corresponded with the local press at home. The letters were afterward compiled, and published in book form, under the title of "From the Atlantic to the Pacific Overland."

He early became a prominent member of the Chamber of Commerce in the city of New York and a director of many financial and benevolent institutions.

Mr. Barnes had been ever alive to his want of education, and lost no time which could be consistently taken from his busy pursuits, to store his mind with literary culture. His education when a boy had been limited to the district school. He regards a thorough scholastic training as of infinitely more value than the possession of wealth, and often thus expresses himself. The result of his energy in this direction has largely supplied his early deficiency. His quick perceptions, clear and comprehensive observation, have also brought him a goodly store of knowledge, to which has been added much judicious reading. His practical contributions to the press upon various subjects, and addresses before schools, societies, and institutions secured for him the title of LL.D. from one of the Western universities.

In 1864, he was nominated for Congress in one of the Brooklyn districts, but declined. At the next election, in 1866, he accepted the nomination, and was elected by the largest majority ever obtained in his district. As a member of the Fortieth Congress he was placed upon the important Committees of Banking and Currency, and of Education and Labor.

Mr. Barnes formed a resolution when commencing life to resign active business as soon as he was able to live as he liked, and at forty years of age, under any circumstances of favorable fortune. He is a real instance of a person keeping his promise in this respect. At forty, Mr. Barnes retired from Congress, and from business. He felt that the advantages of travel, of social life, of domestic happiness and quiet with his family, of opportunity to patronize the arts,

to diffuse benevolence, was a far greater pleasure than political ambition, or increasing millions at the expense of constant toil and domestic separation.

He is assisting his city of Brooklyn in building its costly and magnificent bridge and elegant Prospect Park. He is also a prominent and zealous member of its Board of Education, and active in all of her benevolent works. Himself and family are now traveling in Europe. It is generally understood that whenever he will accept the nomination of Mayor of Brooklyn, it is at his disposal, and his name is also talked of as a candidate for governor.

An ardent admirer of Clay and Webster, Mr. Barnes was first a Whig. Subsequently he acted with the Republican party, and as a private citizen resisted the extension of slavery into the Territories. On the ground of the sectionalism of the Republican party, in 1860 he declined to go as a delegate to the Chicago Presidential Convention, saying, "I am a citizen—not a politician." The nomination of Lincoln and Hamlin filled him with apprehensions of a future war, and acting upon his convictions he at once commenced to put his business in order. On the 16th of June, 1860, he closed his business with the Cotton States. He was the first merchant in the United States who refused to do business with the South, except for cash, and when the war came, it found him financially prepared.

His career in Congress was marked by several elaborate and eloquent speeches. One of these was in regard to the public finances. He had from the first opposed an inflation of the currency. But this measure having been forced upon the country, and its results becoming incorporated into our financial system, he saw disaster in a too rapid contraction. A brief extract from this speech, delivered January 11, 1868, will best show his views. He said :—

"The currency of a country is like the center of a wheel, the value of property resting upon it being the circumference. We can follow its expansive centrifugal force without danger; but when the motion is reversed, and it acts with contracting centripetal power it checks the momentum of the financial world. Remove the center, and the circumference crumbles with the slightest touch. The conditions of society

accommodate themselves to an expanded currency without interruption. They can not do so when contraction takes place, for the reason *that one side of the account becomes fixed and immovable*. As money disappears, values shrink with unequal rapidity, *but debts remain at their full face*. A large proportion of our property is represented by credits or debts which no legislation can reduce. We have \$21,000,000,000 of property represented by \$700,000,000 of circulating medium; or three per cent. of money to ninety-seven per. cent of confidence and credit. We have a State, municipal, national, and personal indebtedness of over \$6,200,000,000. To contract our currency \$100,000,000 reduces the total value of our property one seventh, or \$3,000,000,000. To contract \$300,000,000, as is proposed, would extinguish one half the value of our property, and leave our indebtedness wholly unaffected, the end of which is bankruptcy to the citizens and repudiation by the government. We have inflated the balloon; we have landed upon a barren island. Instead of undertaking to swim to the mainland against tides, against winds and currents, I would wait for the friendly craft to insure our safe deliverance. We must now wait for the increase of wealth and population to overtake our changed condition, and restore us to the specie standard of the world."

The impeachment of the President, another of the measures of the Fortieth Congress, was opposed by Mr. Barnes as an extreme party measure and one likely to do great injury to the country. He delivered an earnest and practical speech on the subject, characterizing the measure as merging the Executive and Legislative Department into one, inciting the spirit of retaliation, involving the stability of our national bonds, and possibly leading to civil war. "As for me" he said, in his impassioned closing, "if you this day impeach the President of the United States upon the *evidence now before us*, I shall consider our liberties less secure, our property less valuable, our national honor tarnished, our rights invaded, and the future full of woe and untold disaster."

Mr. Barnes has an erect, well-proportioned figure, and a fine intellectual head. His features are regular, and the whole face is expressive of both force and amiability of character. The brow is broad and high, and the eyes are clear and observing. His manners are courteous and genial with all persons. As a merchant, public man, and citizen, he has stood throughout his career an instance of that integrity, enterprise, and usefulness which afford the highest example of individual capacity and worth.









James L. Plimpton

## JAMES L. PLIMPTON.

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FEW persons in any age have perhaps contributed more largely to the rational enjoyment of the masses, than has the subject of this sketch. In Massachusetts or South Carolina, New York or California, in Paris or Australia, or wherever else Roller Skating assemblies have been introduced, the originator has been justly acknowledged a great public benefactor. We are therefore satisfied that our readers will appreciate our having gathered together the following facts in reference to one whose personal efforts have added so much to public amusement.

James L. Plimpton was born at Medfield, Massachusetts, April 14, 1828. In his early youth, it was plainly perceptible, should he be allowed to follow his inclinations, that mechanical pursuits—and not the calling of a farmer, the occupation of his father—would in after years become his choice. Sixteen years upon a farm, however, so knit his frame and prepared his constitution as to withstand the great mental and physical labor he has since performed.

When eight years of age, his parents removed to Walpole, Massachusetts. Here the ill health of his father was such that he was barely able to *plan* the farm-work, the most of which was executed by James and Henry—an elder brother—each having an allotted amount of work to perform in a given number of days. The specified tasks having been accomplished, the brothers were liberally remunerated for all extra work performed by them; and thus they acquired self-reliance, industry, and skill, learning at the same time the importance of religiously observing all contracts and

agreements, and the true value of money, whereby was laid the foundation of much of their present prosperity and success.

With the capital thus accumulated, Henry devoted himself to study becoming eventually a noted school-teacher; James, with rapidly developing mechanical ideas, applied his earnings to the purchase of tools, chemicals, drafting and philosophical instruments and apparatus, useful books on mechanics, arts, etc. A small out-building, formerly used for storing corn, served as his combined study, work-shop, and laboratory. Here he performed his various experiments—here were to be seen specimens of his mechanism, and here was the “curiosity shop” of the neighborhood. With his turning-lathe, vise, forge, electric machines, batteries, etc., he exhibited wonders of his own handiwork.

When at the age of sixteen, young Plimpton left home to serve a year in a small machine-shop, in another part of the town, his renown as a mechanical genius had preceded him. Only a few months had elapsed in his new sphere, when he was intrusted with all the drafting, gear-cutting, and other important work of the establishment requiring skill, close calculation, and brain work.

This year of contracts having expired, he accepted a more lucrative position in a large machine-shop, at Claremont, New Hampshire. Here his great ability, sound judgment, and unassuming manners gained for him the confidence and respect of all with whom he came in contact; and before his eighteenth birth-day, he was promoted to foreman, with over fifty hands under his immediate supervision. With his greatly increased earnings, he added more useful books to his library, devoting each spare moment to assiduous study. Patents and patent laws began at this time to claim his particular attention and study; and to this day he pursues these subjects with marked interest and pleasure, having collected one of the largest and most valuable libraries pertaining to such matters owned by any private individual. He has assisted as expert and adviser in many important cases, and his aid to Stevens, of East Brookfield, in the celebrated infringement suit

of Hovey *vs.* Stevens, is a marked instance of his ability in this direction.

At the age of twenty-one, he associated himself with his brother in the business of machine-building at Westfield, Massachusetts, and thus over twenty years ago was inaugurated the business firm of H. R. & J. L. Plimpton, extensively known for many years past as designers, manufacturers, and dealers in fine furniture, decorations, etc., Henry R. having charge of the business in Boston, and James L. in New York.

An hour spent at Mr. Plimpton's place of business in New York would astonish any one, at the vast amount of mental labor performed by him in directing the great variety of interests upon which he is at present engaged. It is not unusual for him in one short hour to act in the capacity of merchant, architect, landlord, designer, inventor, legal adviser, capitalist, financier, etc. In all matters he is clear, cautious, and decided, never yielding a principle for profit, and never failing to meet an engagement or agreement—he has always enjoyed the confidence and respect of all who know him. It would be impossible in this short notice to illustrate the various traits of his character or to enumerate the many complicated machines and original inventions that have emanated from his fertile brain; we have therefore selected the ones in which the public are at present most interested.

Having improved his health from a season of ice-skating at Central Park in 1862, it was Mr. Plimpton's desire to continue the exercise. Careful investigation fully demonstrated that *artificial* ice was a failure for that purpose, and that no roller-skate had ever been made, upon which the curved movements of ice skating could be performed. Mr. Plimpton in his desire to supply that much-needed article, soon produced a roller-skate that could be guided by the will of the wearer, by the natural inclination of the body. From this simple instrument he has reared one of the most popular and beneficial systems of exercise extant, and of which it has been justly said, "As Howe's sewing machine is to our



industrial wants, or Morse's telegraph to commercial pursuits, so Plimpton's system of exercise is to the social and physical wants of society."

In adapting these great inventions to the requirements of the public, though simple in themselves, they have caused their originator a vast amount of time, mental labor, and money.

Having completed the necessary mechanical appliances, Mr. Plimpton directed his attention to the development of the new field of usefulness to which his invention had given rise.

By his efforts in 1863 the New York Roller Skating Association was organized. This pioneer association has ever since flourished in a marked degree, always having been under the immediate supervision of its distinguished founder. As a popular instructor and disciplinarian he is eminently qualified with generosity unequalled, and liberality to a fault, no personal exertion or expense is ever for a moment considered, while his friends or the public are to be benefited thereby.

His imposing and beautiful block known as Plimpton's Building, in New York, was designed by himself, and erected under his own immediate supervision at an outlay of over one hundred thousand dollars, and built principally for the purpose of having a suitable place in which his favorite hobby could be developed, and for the better accomodation of his pet association. In the summer of 1866, this association leased the Atlantic House at Newport, Rhode Island, converting the large dining-room and piazza into a summer skating hall, fitting up the other portions of this spacious and fashionable hotel for the accommodation of the association and their invited guests; while nothing was left undone for the comfort and enjoyment of the members, much pains were also taken by Mr. Plimpton in bringing this system of exercise to the notice of the educated and refined classes from all parts of the country. The city officials, clergy, press, physicians, board of education, teachers, and other exemplary citizens of Newport, were elected associate members of the association for the season. Invitations were ex-



tended to the various skating organizations throughout the country, many of whom sent delegates. Receptions and special entertainments were also given to many noted visitors, among whom were Prince Ouroussoff and Count de Montague, of Russia, Major-General Sherman, Major-General Anderson, and other distinguished military personages, also officers and members of the New York Yacht Club, General Bullock of Massachusetts, Chief Justice Bigelow, and others, all of whom appeared truly delighted, and expressed their warmest congratulations to Mr. Plimpton for his success in having originated a novel, refined, healthful, and amusing exercise of undeniable public utility, and susceptible of participation and enjoyment by both ladies and gentlemen, at all seasons of the year.

Since thus bringing this new system of exercise into public notice, Roller Skating assemblies have sprung into existence as if by magic in all parts of this country, as well as in Europe, and wherever seen it leaves the unmistakable marks of practicability, imparted to it by its originator. We can not illustrate the liberality, or record the honors due Mr. Plimpton, in terms more appropriate than by giving the following copy of a series of resolutions, presented to him by the New York Skating Association at their first meeting after returning from Newport.

At a meeting of the New York Skating Association held at their rooms in New York, September 4, 1866, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :—

*“Whereas*, Mr. James L. Plimpton, the worthy and most esteemed founder of our association, has presented to us the receipted bills for all expenses incurred during our late memorable sojourn at Newport, Rhode Island, therefore,

*“Resolved*, That the heartfelt and sincere thanks of this association are most cordially tendered to Mr. Plimpton for this great act of munificence, as well as for many like liberalities heretofore received at his hands.

*“Resolved*, That the thanks of this association are further due Mr. Plimpton, for his untiring personal exertions, while presiding over

the assemblies and providing for the comfort and enjoyment of our members, associates, and noted guests.

*“Resolved,* That this is a most suitable occasion to acknowledge our high appreciation of Mr. Plimpton’s public services, as the originator of Circular Roller Skating, and as first to discover, illustrate, and make known that skating was a science as well as an art based on fixed and undeniable laws, the comprehension of which enables us to learn with rapidity and to impart instructions in a clear and concise manner to others. He has devised and established a system of regulating and conducting this exercise so as to insure at all times physical benefit, social improvement, and rational enjoyment. His ingenuity, research, enthusiasm, and energy have added another to the polite arts, an art as boundless in extent and as beautiful to contemplate as sculpture or painting, while possessing great social and physical advantages.

*“Resolved,* That these resolutions be properly engrossed and presented to Mr. Plimpton as a mark of acknowledgment for his services and liberality in our behalf, as well as in behalf of the countless thousands who enjoy the fruits of his genius. And in conclusion let us assure him that his memory will ever be cherished as the originator and promoter of a system of exercise and beneficial recreation, for which refined society will ever owe him grateful remembrances.”

From a host of voluntary acknowledgments by distinguished persons we select the following:—

FILMORE HOUSE, NEWPORT, Aug. 23, 1866.

JAMES L. PLIMPTON, Esq., Supt. N. Y. Skating Association.

DEAR SIR.—I owe you an expression of my sense of your kind invitation of myself and friends to the rooms of the Skating Association last night; and assure you that had we been merely amused with the novelty of your entertainment in reproducing in midsummer what has heretofore been exclusively a winter amusement, we would have been completely satisfied with our evening’s entertainment.

But your complete success in establishing not only a novel, but a most agreeable and healthful exercise and amusement for ladies and gentlemen, and one which we are convinced will be of great public utility, is a subject of congratulation, to be highly appreciated.

I remain yours, truly,

T. W. SHERMAN.

To show that Mr. Plimpton's system of exercise, and public services are as highly appreciated at the South as at the North, we present the following from one whose reputation is well known, both as a physician and learned divine.

LOUISVILLE, KY., Oct. 8, 1869.

MAJOR ELIAS LAWRENCE, New Orleans, La.:

*Dear Sir,*—I am glad to hear you are about to open a hall for Roller Skating in New Orleans. I can not doubt that your enterprise will be crowned with eminent success. Nothing in Louisville has ever taken, with all classes of citizens, as Capt. Glover's Hall has done, and nothing ever set on foot for the amusement and physical improvement of its young people is more worthy of encouragement. Roller Skating is just the thing wanted by our young people, especially by our girls. It affords just the sort of exercise they require for their physical development—gentle but active, and so attractive that they can not resist it. It is my deliberate opinion, that no conception has ever entered the human mind, in this century, so important to the health of girls, in our cities, as this skating within doors. Nothing could exceed it in grace. No sight I have ever beheld is so beautiful as the Louisville Rink, with its tastefully dressed young men and girls, sailing, swimming, floating through the mazes of the march, as if impelled by magic power. The old people assemble nightly to witness the sight, apparently as much delighted as their children. All honor, I say, to the originator of Roller Skating. Long may he live. The children will rise up and bless his name.

Yours truly,

L. P. YANDELL, SR., M. D.

From the foregoing acknowledgments it is readily seen that Mr. Plimpton enjoys an enviable position among the benefactors of the age. The unexampled mode by which he has won renown,—the public spirit manifested by him, together with his charitableness, and lavish expenditures, for and in aid of his fellow-men, render him a fitting subject for this publication, as one of the progressive and self-made men of the times.









W. H. P. H. H. H.

## HENRY P. DE GRAAF.

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HENRY P. DE GRAAF, one of the prominent merchants of New York City, was born at Herkimer, New York, on the twenty-fourth of November, 1825. His parents were formerly residents of Schenectady, and his grandfather was a sterling patriot in the war of the Revolution, commanding a regiment in that great struggle.

Until the age of fifteen years, young De Graaf remained at home actively employed on his father's farm, performing with alacrity and zeal the general work incident to his calling, though disinclined to make that a business for a lifetime.

In the year 1840 he left his home-farm and went to Little Falls, N. Y., residing there three years with G. B. Young. During this time, he acquired a knowledge of cabinet-making, and worked as a journeyman ; after which time he traveled two years, and then commenced business for himself.

Cabinet-making twenty years ago was not so remunerative as now, and becoming somewhat dissatisfied-with his slow progress at money-making, about the time that the golden charms of California allured its tens of thousands in quest of wealth to the far West, he disposed of his little business in New York, assisted in forming a company, and was chosen treasurer, and afterward embarked for the Pacific, on the *Henry Harbeck*, June 8, 1849.

California was then a far-off land, and not, as now, to be reached in a few days by railroad, traveling in palace cars. The bark was six months out at sea before reaching San Francisco, and Mr. De Graaf, when approaching the Golden Gate that was about to usher him into the eldorado of the Pacific shore, found himself destitute



## WILLIAM DIVINE.

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R. WILLIAM DIVINE belongs to that class of self-made men, whose history presents an encouraging example to aspirants for fortune, by straightforward and legitimate enterprise. His father was a manufacturer of linen goods, in the county of Tyrone, Ireland, where Mr. Divine was born, in the first year of the present century. At an early age he learned the linen business with his father, and afterward removed to Belfast, where he paid an apprentice fee to learn muslin weaving. In 1822 he went to Manchester, England, where he was for several years engaged in the silk manufacture.

The Old World, however, did not present sufficient scope and encouragement for the exercise of his powers, and in 1827, he resolved upon trying the New. After a tedious passage of twenty-one weeks he arrived in New York, where he remained but a few days, when he proceeded to Philadelphia, which has since been his home. He commenced work on a hand-loom for one dollar per day, the average wages of weavers at that period. But in less than a month he was able by his superior skill to earn two dollars. He was next employed on a broadcloth loom in the "Penn Factory," on Twenty-fifth Street, near Spruce, of which he was afterward proprietor. By unremitted industry and rigid economy he secured sufficient capital, after eleven years spent in the employment of others, to procure one set of woolen machines, and, renting a room with power, in a mill on Pine Street, near Twentieth, he began the manufacture of Kentucky jeans. His intimate and practical acquaintance with the details of manufacturing gave him advantages, his products commanded a ready sale in the markets, and in a few









*Geo. P. Bradford*

## GEORGE P. BRADFORD.

BY J. ALEXANDER PATTEN.



It is not too much to affirm that commerce in the United States has commanded an amount of individual talents equal to any of the liberal professions. If our merchants are not scholars, in the absolute meaning of that term, they are certainly men whose intelligence and energy would have made them successful in any sphere of human activity.

England is sometimes sneered at as "a nation of shopkeepers," and the United States to a large degree is open to the same designation. Goldsmith has written:—

"Where wealth and freedom reign, contentment fails,  
And honor sinks where commerce long prevails."

But it is mighty commerce, upheld and directed by the mental and physical resources of these same merchants, that has made England the powerful and wealthy nation that she is, and this republic one of the foremost powers of the earth. Grant that the motive underlying all commerce is gain, still it is trade that is the unfailing inspiration of enterprise and national progress. Hence the commerce and merchants of all lands are to be considered as among the most important agencies for the welfare of men and the grandeur of nations. And in our own country the talents and respectability of the class of men who have been and are engaged in mercantile pursuits, are even more conspicuous than elsewhere. Throughout our whole history our business enterprise has won attention at home and abroad, and the honorable and intelligent character of our merchants has been a source of just pride. The

following biography of one of the former merchants of the city of New York will fully illustrate these preliminary remarks.

George P. Bradford was born at Plainfield in Connecticut. He is the son of Henry Bradford, a farmer of that section, and Lois Bradford, who was one of the distinguished family of Eaton, of that State. On the paternal side he is a descendant of the Puritan leader, William Bradford, who came over in the *Mayflower*, and is described as "strong, bold, and enduring: but withal, a meek and prudent Christian." The original settlement of the family was at Plymouth, Massachusetts, where they owned a farm. About 1740 James Bradford, the great-grandfather of the subject of our notice, removed to Connecticut, and settled at Plainfield. On this journey he rode on horseback and was guided by blazed trees. At the time of the Revolution James Bradford was a member of the Connecticut Legislature at Hartford. During the same war Anthony Bradford, the grandfather of our subject, was in the American army, and was held a prisoner on Long Island for two years. An incident is related in regard to these times. After the capture of Burgoyne the members of the Connecticut Legislature were allowed to take to their homes any of the Hessian prisoners to do manual labor. Mr. James Bradford took one, who on the conclusion of peace declined to return to Germany, and remained in the family until he died—some forty years. The original homestead farm at Plainfield, owned by his great-grandfather, is now the property of Mr. George P. Bradford.

Our subject lost his father when only fourteen years of age. Before this time he had attended the district school and high school, at such periods as he could be spared from the work of the farm. There were six children, of which he was the next to the oldest. It fell to his lot to take his father's place in the management of the farm. He was energetic and shrewd for his age, and had stability and judgment. During four years he devoted himself to the care of the farm, and then, at the age of eighteen, resumed his studies at the high school. This establishment was under the care

of John Witter, an able instructor, of whom many a successful man of this day retains a pleasant memory. After nearly four years of study, young Bradford left the high school, to engage in business pursuits. His mind had been well trained, and his natural intelligence and force of character had been not only developed, but rendered practical and efficient for active life.

Going to Fall River, Massachusetts, he entered a store, where he remained about a year. He then returned to Plainfield to take a clerkship, and subsequently he had a store of his own for a short time. But his eyes were turned upon the city of New York, as the field in which he desired to labor for business success. Accordingly we find him, in 1839, commencing a dry-goods business in New York. However, the period was not particularly favorable, and he gave up. He passed a considerable time in visiting the South, particularly New Orleans, where he had a brother since eminent at that bar.

His business career in New York, strictly speaking, began in 1845, when the firm of Peck, Bradford & Richmond was established at No. 189 Pearl Street in dry-goods jobbing. At that time nearly the entire dry-goods trade was located in Pearl Street, and a dry-goods dealer was commonly termed "a Pearl Street man." Five years later Mr. Elisha Teek retired from this firm, when it was dissolved. Mr. Bradford then went into cloth importing, in a strong firm known as Bradford, Heath & Clark. Julius Catlin, of Hartford, and Charles Abernethy, of New York, were the special partners. A large and profitable business was built up, and this connection continued for three years. Then Thomas Hunt replaced Catlin and Abernethy as special partner, and the style of the firm became Bradford, Hunt & Clark. This house enjoyed a first-class reputation for enterprise and credit during the three years of its existence. Mr. Bradford now determined to embark in the wholesale ready-made clothing business, and, in association with Cornelius T. Longstreet, formed the firm of Longstreet, Bradford & Co., under which style the business was conducted from



December, 1858 to 1865. Their sales amounted to about one million of dollars annually. In the interval stated, however, Mr. Longstreet had withdrawn, and his son had taken his place, who himself went out in the last named year. After this the firm was Bradford, Welles & Co., for a year and a half, when Mr. Welles died, and it became George P. Bradford & Co. This firm was in existence until the 1st of January, 1870, when Mr. Bradford retired from commercial business.

It will thus be seen that Mr. Bradford's connection with the dry goods, cloth, and clothing branches of trade in New York extended over a period of twenty-five years. During this time he passed through various seasons of commercial prostration and financial embarrassments, but never failed. At the breaking out of the war his house had an extensive Southern business, and they lost nearly half a million of dollars. But such was his energy and financial ability that he always maintained the credit of his firms, and finally retired with wealth. In his business habits during these years he was active and untiring. His enterprise and judgment, in which he was much aided by his partners, secured a large trade, and gave each of his firms a foremost rank in the business in which it was engaged.

He is now the president of the Bles Sewing Machine Company, which is located at 623 Broadway, and is manufacturing one of the best articles of the kind now offered to the public. The company was organized in 1869, and the entire capital stock is owned by leading retired or active merchants of New York. The factory is on the corner of John and Bridge streets, Brooklyn, and has a capacity for producing five hundred sewing machines per week. It has four floors, giving a total working space of nine thousand square feet. All the machinery is driven by an eighty-horse steam engine. The tools and machinery are of the latest and most approved description, the probable value of the whole establishment being about two hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Bles, the inventor of the machine, is a practical German

mechanic, and has been a sewing-machine expert for over twenty years. During the last eight or ten years he has been engaged in perfecting this machine, with results which are not less astonishing than satisfactory. It is known as the Blee's Patent Noiseless Link-Motion Sewing Machine, and in mechanical simplicity, and excellence and variety of work, has great merits. It uses with equal and perfect facility the finest or coarsest silk, linen, and cotton thread, and sews with perfect uniformity and fidelity the finest fabrics, and the heaviest cloth or leather. Every stitch is precisely like all the rest, and perfectly true and even on both sides of the work. Even if the seam were cut or torn, it would not ravel, but continue its firm hold. The perfect accuracy is owing to the peculiar advantages of the Link Motion, which wholly prevents the wearing parts of the machine from disturbing the sewing parts. Every machine performs, in the most perfect manner, hemming, felling, tucking, binding, braiding, cording, quilting, ruffling, and gathering. As a leather sewing machine, the Blee's Machine is decidedly without a rival—the best in the world. A new and improved family machine, with drop-feed, has recently been patented by the Company. These machines are guaranteed by the Company for three years to do all that is claimed for them, if directions are followed.

Satisfied with the peculiar merits of the Blee's Machine, both for family use and manufactures, Mr. Bradford is devoting his energies and experience to its introduction throughout the United States and Europe. His broad and comprehensive views of business, together with his industry and system, are invaluable in such an enterprise alike to the company and its patrons.

In politics Mr. Bradford has acted with the Republican party, and has held the position of President of the Republican Association of the Twenty-Second Ward of New York. He was a member of the Committee on Clothing at the great New York Sanitary Fair. He has also been a trustee of the Northwestern Dispensary.

Mr. Bradford is of good stature, well made, and erect. He shows

a great deal of activity, and in both mind and body has still the force and vitality of his younger years. His manners are polite, while his conversation has the point and directness occasioned by business method and habits. The examination of his face shows you regular features, and an expression which is a blending of self reliance, firmness, and amiability. You readily see that he is one who never misunderstands himself, or the motives of others. He is an accurate judge of human nature, a keen observer of the world's affairs, and an earnest doer of his own work and duty. His enlightened character and successful enterprise have given elevation and renown to all the walks in which he has been engaged. Still in the business harness, and still animated by the same earnestness of brain and will, it is not unwise to conclude that his achievements are not yet ended.

## DAVID HOADLEY.

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SINCE 1853 Mr. Hoadley has filled the important position of President of the Panama Railroad. A man more modest or retiring, one who shrinks more from publicity in all its forms, it would perhaps be difficult to find, and yet he has filled with honor a wide sphere in business circles, and deservedly enjoys the respect and confidence not alone of the company he represents, but also of the entire commercial community. He is eminently social and genial in his intercourse with other people, affable and polished in his manners. He was born at Waterbury, in Connecticut, in 1806, and is now, therefore, sixty-four years of age. He was educated as a druggist, in New Haven, Conn., and after a while he commenced the wholesale drug business in this city at the corner of Water and Wall streets, his store being, curiously enough, diagonally across the street from his present office. In 1835 he went to Europe, the very year in which the Hon. Henry Clay asked the Senate of the United States to appoint a commissioner to visit the different routes on the continent of America best adapted for inter-oceanic communication, and report thereon, which was the first step taken by Americans in relation to a railroad across the Isthmus of Panama.

Mr. Hoadley returned from Europe, gradually increased and prospered in his business, finally discontinuing it in 1848. He was Vice-President of the American Exchange Bank, and when in 1850 John J. Fisk, the cashier, was obliged to go to Havana in consequence of ill-health, the directors of the bank asked Mr. Hoadley to take his place. In 1851, the president of the bank, Mr. Leavitt, went to Europe, leaving Mr. Hoadley acting president. He held this posi-



tion for a year when he resigned, and visited Europe for the second time in 1852, returning to this country to find the bank had never accepted his resignation. On the 1st of November, 1853, he was invited to take the place which he has since occupied, as the President of the Panama Railroad, a position for importance and responsibility second to none of a similar kind in the world.

In personal appearance, Mr. Hoadley is a little below the average height, a delicately formed and slimly built man. His hair and side whiskers are snowy white; he has a fresh-looking face, and deep hazel eyes. He is quick in conversation, expeditious in business, easy in his movements, and seems to have preserved his health to a wonderful degree. His office is in the Tontine Building at No. 88 Wall Street, and its walls are completely covered with pictures representing scenes in Panama, and maps, charts, etc., of the country.

A large oil painting executed in 1857, which hangs over the marble mantel at the upper end of the room, gives to the eye a truthful and picturesque scene of the manner in which people were obliged to cross the Isthmus before the completion of the railroad. After the gold discoveries in 1848 the Isthmus of Panama swarmed with the tide of emigration which surged across it from the United States and all parts of the the Old World. Traveling on mule back; in light canoes, manned by Indians, negroes, and boatmen of mixed blood; in bamboo chairs on the backs of the natives; and on foot,—the vast procession crossed the almost perpendicular sides of the mountains, waded through the deep morasses, defying the swarms of troublesome insects, the wild beasts of the forest, the malaria of the swamps, the hot suns and drenching rains of the climate, intent only upon reaching the land of gold!

In ancient or modern times there has, perhaps, been no one work which in a few brief years has accomplished so much, and which promises for the future so great benefit to the commercial interests of the world, as the present railroad thoroughfare between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, at the Isthmus of Panama. The Old



World had looked toward the project with longing eyes, but drew back disheartened at the gigantic attempt. The road was left for Americans to build, and after overcoming almost insurmountable difficulties, collecting laborers from the four quarters of the globe to assist them in performing the work—Irishmen, Coolies, Chinamen, English, French, Germans, and Austrians, amounting in all to more than seven thousand, the last rail was laid on the 27th day of January, 1855, at midnight, in darkness and rain, and on the following day a locomotive passed from ocean to ocean. The entire length of the road is 47 miles, 3020 feet, with a maximum grade of 60 feet to the mile. The water-ways on the route are no less than 170 in number, 36 of which are crossed by bridges ranging from 12 to 625 feet in length. Up to 1859 the entire cost of the road was eight millions of dollars, and the gross earnings for the same time amounted to \$8,147,675. The amount of specie conveyed over this road from 1855 to 1867 was over \$750,000,000, without the loss of a single dollar; it has also taken 300,000 mail bags, without the loss of a bag. This road connects with eight lines of steamers and four lines of sailing vessels, doing the transporting for millions of people. The ride along its entire route is one of great beauty and novelty, while the healthfulness of the climate has improved to such a degree, that it equals our Western States in salubriousness.

We hope that this wonderful monument of American pluck may continue in the hands of our countrymen; and that Mr. Hoadley may be spared to act as its president for a long time to come.







Truly Yours  
J. Gregory Smith

## JOHN GREGORY SMITH.

BY F. H. GREER



THE present century may well be called the era of progress and of great enterprises. More particularly so, in the rapid extension of commerce and civilization by means of railways. In this country, especially, has the growth of railroads been, within the last twenty years, unprecedented.

Throughout its vast domain they have been built with a rapidity which has excited the wonder and admiration of the world, and in their management men distinguished for intellectual capacity and great executive ability are employed. Prominently among the great railroad managers, stands the subject of this sketch.

John Gregory Smith was born in the village of St. Albans, Vermont, on the 22d day of July, 1818.

His father, John Smith, was one of the most influential men in the State; a lawyer by profession, he was from the beginning identified with the railway interests of Vermont. He had represented his district in Congress, and at the time of his death, which occurred in 1858, was one of the trustees and managers of the Vermont Central, and Vermont and Canada Railroads.

John Gregory, his eldest son, graduated at the University of Vermont, and studied law at the New Haven Law School.

At the age of twenty-three he began the practice of law in company with his father, and continued in the profession, earning the reputation of an able and successful lawyer, until, at his father's death, he was appointed by the Chancellor to fill the vacancy thus created.

The affairs of the Vermont Central Railroad were at that time in a most deplorable condition, the stock worthless, the securities



of the company nearly so; its credit gone, the equipment almost worn out, and the road-bed almost entirely unserviceable; in fact, the friends of the road had, for the most part, given the whole enterprise up in despair.

Upon Mr. Smith's assuming the control of the road, the condition of affairs began to improve. By his far-sightedness and good judgment, his indomitable energy and perseverance, and, above all, by his rare executive ability, the improvement of the road steadily progressed. The maze of intricate litigation and legislation which had hitherto hampered and embarrassed every movement, was unraveled and adjusted, until the road now stands in the position of the foremost railroad of New England, and second to none in the country for general equipment.

The earnings of the road, from being barely sufficient to pay the running expenses, have reached the figure of more than two millions of dollars.

He was elected to the State Senate in the years of 1858 and 1859, and represented his town the three years following; the last of which, 1862, he was made speaker of the House. The year following, he was called to the gubernatorial chair, which he filled through two terms of office. This was during the darkest period of our great civil war, when the resources of the whole nation were taxed to the utmost.

The same untiring zeal and energy which he had before displayed he infused into his administration of State affairs.

The calls of the general government for troops were always promptly met, and the men, fully armed and equipped, were in the field on time. The full quota of the State was always filled without delay, and though the agricultural population of the State made it particularly severe, yet not a *paper man* was ever returned, or a State draft necessary.

No troops in the whole army were more thoroughly equipped or sent into the field in better condition than were the Vermont troops under Governor Smith's administration; and the late

lamented Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, often remarked, that he had less trouble with the Vermont troops, than those of any other State.

Nor did Governor Smith, through all the pressing and onerous duties entailed by the requisitions of the War Department and the many complications of the railroads, forget or neglect the industrial, educational, or agricultural interests of his State, but all were promoted and benefited in a large degree.

During the campaign of General Grant from Culpepper to Petersburg, upon the first intelligence of the great battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania, Governor Smith, with a full and efficient corps of surgeons, proceeded at once to the field, and there with them labored night and day, sparing neither his private means nor personal comfort, till the last Vermont soldier who was sick or wounded was well cared for, furloughs obtained, and all who could be moved sent home to Vermont.

It was during his term of office as chief magistrate, that the famous St. Albans raid occurred, and then was shown his peculiar diplomatic power, his quick perception and controlling influence over men, in healing over and preventing the open rupture which was so nearly made by an exasperated people on the one side, and the Canadian government on the other. It was through his exertions that the partial payment by the Canadian government to the banks which had suffered by the raiders was made.

Soon after the close of his second term as chief executive, he was solicited by Governor Dillingham to fill the vacancy in the United States Senate, occasioned by the death of the Hon. Solomon Foote, which honor he declined; and again, at the succeeding election, he was urged to accept the same office at the hands of his fellow-citizens, but again declined.

In 1866 Governor Smith was solicited by the grantees of the Northern Pacific Railroad to accept the Presidency of that road. A charter, with the right of way from the head of Lake Superior to Puget Sound on the Pacific coast, with a liberal grant of land,

had been obtained from the government in 1864, but there being no governmental aid of money, and the attention of capitalists being absorbed by the great struggle of the nation for its life, the affairs of the company had fallen into a desperate state. But becoming convinced that the enterprise had in it all the essential elements of success, and that it was destined to be ultimately a great through line to the Pacific coast, he accepted the position of President.

Upon failure to get further aid from Congress, his associates, one after another, discouraged by the magnitude of the enterprise and the difficulty of obtaining the amount of money necessary to complete two thousand miles of railroad through an almost unbroken wilderness, withdrew, leaving him almost entirely alone, with the whole burden of debt upon his shoulders. Nothing daunted by the delay, nor disheartened by the prospect, with that energy of purpose and fertility of resource for which he is so noted, he at once set about forming a new and more powerful combination. For a long period he carried the debt, the responsibility, the burden, unflinchingly; interested and got into his board of directors, the best railroad talent the country afforded, and the men of the largest capital; and now, with new life and vigor, one of the greatest enterprises of modern days is being pushed forward to an early completion; and it will be but a short time before the governor will enjoy the fruition of his constancy, courage, and perseverance.

At the age of twenty-five he married Miss Ann Eliza Brainerd, of St. Albans, which was one of the happiest of unions. She has made him a most accomplished and affectionate wife, in every way worthy of the man. He has five children, two sons and three daughters. His domestic relations are remarkably happy. He has a beautiful home, and few enjoy home comforts so well as he.

In person the governor is about the medium height, firmly and compactly built, and capable of enduring the greatest fatigue; and has long had the reputation of being the hardest-working man in Vermont. His manners are peculiarly genial and simple, and no

one, not even the lowest employee on any of his roads, is ever refused a full hearing. His purse is always open to the needy, and his assistance always afforded to the oppressed.

His distinguishing characteristics are—most indomitable energy; rare tact in the management of men; far-sightedness; a cool, dispassionate judgment which seldom errs; liberality; warm, open-hearted hospitality; and an integrity which even his most bitter enemies have never impeached.

Governor Smith, in his public and private life, may be truly regarded as one of New England's representative men. He has, at his command, a generous fund of useful knowledge, and has rarely been at fault in his judgment of others, or in his estimate of important measures, whether connected with his official or his business career. Never backward in asserting his principles, he is willing to defer to the opinions of others. With a retentive memory for facts and details, a keen perception of affairs, and quick reasoning powers, he arrives at mental conclusions by patient mental labor. In social life he is unreserved in his conversation, warm in his friendship, and cordial in his intercourse with all.









*W. C. Smith*

## MELVILLE CLAYTON SMITH.

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MELVILLE C. SMITH is an excellent representative of the highest type of American character, possessing, in an eminent degree, the dash, boldness, and persistency, with the clearness of perception, and freedom and scope of thought, which characterize our progressive people.

To the careful observer and thoughtful student of character, the inherent elements of one's nature—"the elements and essences of the soul"—are of far deeper interest and significance than the mere incidents that pertain to the circumstances and experiences of life. The former are fixed and eternal—the latter incidental and transitory. The quality of the organization, the power of the mental, moral, and other faculties, constitute the real man. These are the elements that produce and individualize the infinite variety of the human family, and are the sure landmarks and true indices of real ability and genuine human greatness.

Therefore these innate qualities become of the first importance, and to their analysis we shall devote a portion of this brief sketch of Mr. Smith, even at the expense of omitting many interesting and significant incidents of his life. And in this connection we take pleasure in inserting, as more complete than anything we could hope to write, a description of Mr. Smith, by Prof. O. S. Fowler, the most celebrated phrenologist and delineator of character living. We submit this description with confidence that its general accuracy will commend it to the approval of those knowing Mr. Smith; and written, as it was, after the professor had enjoyed his intimate acquaintance for years, it must be accepted by all as combining the advantages of science with a thorough knowledge of the facts.

The following is the description referred to, given at Washington, D. C., March, 1863:—

This gentleman has a brain both very large in size and first best in quality, and an excellent temperament combined with a good physiology, and these conditions confer on him a very high order of mental efficiency and capacity.

His lungs are large and his health ought to be very good. His muscular system is excellent, but the nervous is better, indeed among the very best, and this throws an immense amount of action upon his muscles, which renders him very strong, and also spry, and enables him to out-lift and out-wrestle most men. He is descended from a very long-lived stock; has more inherent life-force and a stronger clasp on life than one in many thousands, and is not only capable of living to a great age, but of becoming stronger and more healthy as he grows older. Such power to withstand disease, such recuperative energy, seldom comes under my observation.

He has really prodigious combativeness—I scarcely ever find this organ as large, and this drives him ahead like a perfect steamboat. He can put as much pressure into his efforts as almost any man living. Is bound to conquer, and the greater the opposition the more determinedly he resists. Has great martial courage, and would fight like a perfect hero; first, would lay his plans wisely, but execute with a boldness and vigor which would seem reckless, but which would be the height of prudence.

He is great in debate. In this respect few equal him, because such prodigious combativeness, prodigious reasoning organs, and so large and fine a frontal lobe, are rarely found combined. His natural talents are of the highest order. He is one of the deepest thinkers, most profound and comprehensive in the views he takes of men and things, and comprehensive in his plans. He surveys the whole field, and scans all its conditions, and makes allowances for all possible contingencies in the very start. Calculates ultimate effects or results with a certainty and minuteness altogether remarkable, and may rely on his own judgment as well-nigh infallible; first, because his perceptions and memory grasp all the conditions which enter into a complete decision, and because his very large reasoning organs sum them all up, and jump from premise to conclusion at one bound, and correctly.

His memory is extraordinary. Is one in tens of thousands for collecting all the facts which bear on any given subject. He never forgets any thing which he ever knew, or which he intends to use or do. Is first-best in history, as far as he has studied. Is exceedingly fond of trying experiments, but collects facts mainly in order to deduce conclusions therefrom. He reasons clearly and boldly from causes to effects, and equally well from effects to causes, and it is this combination of both kinds of reasoning which gives to his intellect a superiority which hardly one in an age possesses in an equal degree. The combination is remarkable of so much memory of facts—so much causality and comparison united with as fine a grained temperament.

His language is good, but far from equal to the complete expression of his ideas, and, with practice, I think he would write even better than speak—especially write a labored article—one requiring comprehensiveness of thought and clearness of exposition—better than almost any other man. Would be just the one to write a President's Message; and is a real statesman, and no mistake; not a small or large politician, but a genuine statesman, in the full sense of that term, namely: perceiving those great first principles on the application of which a nation's good depends. Reasons clearly and boldly on the human mind, its faculties and laws, and could compose a work on mental philosophy greatly in advance of all others. To all these he adds a quick, clear, prac-

tical insight into human nature, and can read character by instinct, and always correctly. He has an agreeable mode of approaching men, knowing just where and how to take them, how to convince their reason and win their good feelings, and thus bring them over to his side.

Has an accurate architectural eye, first-rate balancing powers, and is a natural sharp-shooter. Is methodical and systematic, and cannot rest unless every single thing is in place. Has first-rate mechanical ingenuity, and takes a lively interest in mechanical contrivances, inventions, and the like, and could make them if occasion required. Ought, by all manner of means, to be in the world of mind instead of the world of commerce. Is well adapted to make money, and to drive large bargains, but not particularly close or economical in little matters. Is more especially adapted to large operations and sums, and would make money by tens of thousands rather than by dribbets.

Has the utmost of cautiousness. Is a little given to procrastination in the start; but once committed, and the pre-provisions made, his firmness and energy are extraordinary. Is not revengeful; but his destructiveness is—as are all his passions—under the control of conscience, so that he rarely becomes indignant, yet his indignation once aroused, is aroused forever, because aroused by injustice, so that he is implacable, except the one who has offended makes ample reparation and restoration. His indignation is not of the fretful, flashy kind, but is the deeper and more inexorable, because under the control of his higher faculties, especially conscience. Ambition is one of his strongest faculties, and runs in the line of intellectual and moral excellence.

He lacks self-confidence, and should cultivate a dignified trust in his own powers. Has, however, that kind of self-trust which comes from the intellect—from a reflective consciousness of his capacities and the correctness of his own reasoning faculties, but not the self-trust of self-esteem itself. Has, however, an uncommonly good address, because commingling a fair share of deference and courtesy, and a larger share of agreeableness, with a firmness and style of manners which both command respect and win confidence.

His social affections are hearty. Is pre-eminently companionable, and really a warm, hearty, true friend. Is fond of home and place, and every way calculated to enjoy home. Is very fond of children and manages them well. Is capable of the very highest order of a genuine, whole-souled, conjugal love. Is highly appreciative of the other sex, especially of personal beauty, yet still more of mental and moral superiority, and can never tolerate anything coarse or descending in woman.

Has a high order of worship of the Deity, but scarcely any faith, so that he will adore and worship ten times more in the economies of nature than by virtue of any specific creed or form. Would place his religion much more in a right life, in doing right and doing good, than in ceremonial observances. Has really boundless benevolence, and is heartily interested in whatever promises to promote human weal—liable to be a little too generous, and wherein he has a show of closeness, it is due to conscientiousness rather than love of dollars. I regard conscientiousness as one of his largest organs. His motives are unimpeachable. He would stand irreproachable for fulfilling every promise, for doing his duty, for living a right life, and on no account be guilty of anything dishonorable or wrong.

Has a really glowing imagination, a high order of taste, and love of the beautiful and perfect, but a still higher order of love for the grand and sublime, of mountain scenery, of the vast and infinite, an element he imparts to all he says and does. Is a perfect mimic, acts out to the very life, has much natural expressiveness in his manner,



tones, looks, attitude, gesture, everything, and a large share of the truly oratorical. Tells a story to the very life, and acts it out perfectly. Can tell more stories, and those better and more appropriate than any of his peers, and so as to make a very stoic burst with laughter. I never find such mirthfulness, imitation, comparison, and causality united.

Has a natural talent for reasoning on theology, on the Divine existence, character, and government, on human rights and duties. His views are rarely equalled by any man, partly because so correct, and also because expressed so remarkably clear, and sustained with such superior logical ability. Is a natural logician as well as metaphysician. Has a great profundity in moral and philosophical reasonings, investigations, and disquisitions. Should write a volume on Natural Theology, another on Political Economy and Government, another on Phrenology, and a fourth on Mental Philosophy.

Debate, stating and answering objections, retort, arguing by ridicule, the mingling of wit, sense, logic, imagination, and mimicry, undoubtedly constitute his great intellectual forte. If circumstances are favorable, he is certain to stand right out as one of the most noted and really greatest of men, and to wield a more commanding influence over the public mind than any other man of his day and generation.

Melville C. Smith was born at Litchfield, Herkimer County, New York, October 8, 1833. The farm-house, which was the place of his birth, continued to be the family residence, and in the main his home, until he arrived of age. His father, James S. Smith, was a man of unusual natural powers, and of great industry and enterprise, owning at different times most of the farms for a mile or more on the street where he resided. These purchases were made quite as much to afford homes and business for relatives and friends as for speculative purposes—an act of enterprise and benevolence which, owing to the great depreciation of real estate in '37, came near costing him the whole of his hard-earned means. He died a few years later, at the early age of 44, of inflammatory disease, superinduced by overwork,—the brief illness of ten days which preceded his death being the only sickness of his whole life. The subject of this sketch was then only eleven years of age. His mother, Mrs. Julia Smith, succeeded to the management of the estate. Most of the land was sold, and the remaining debts incurred from the effects of the crisis of '37 were settled, leaving the family in possession of the homestead of some two hundred acres. The business-like ability shown by Mrs. Smith was the subject of frequent commendation, and she was not less known for her taste and refinement than for her good judgment. She is still living, and

resides with her two older sons in Iowa, both of whom are men of wealth and position. Melville inherited the strong physical organization characteristic of the family connections on both sides, and, while a boy, was foremost in all athletic sports. He was, however, still more noted for the versatility of his talents, especially for his remarkably retentive memory, powers of argument, and ability to reason.

After obtaining a thorough common-school education, he attended the high-school in Ontario County, and also for two years at Clinton Liberal Institute, in Oneida County. When seventeen years of age he was engaged as teacher, and spent most of his time until twenty in teaching and as a student, working during vacations on the farm. In whatever he undertook he showed the same persistency and earnestness of purpose, which have marked all his subsequent efforts, being alike noted for his ease and proficiency in learning, and ability to perform a large amount of the severest physical labor. There are many incidents illustrative of these traits which are necessarily omitted in this brief sketch.

As a boy he was modest, almost to bashfulness, except when called out by opposition or unusual circumstances, and then his great powers of resistance and independence of character became at once manifest in a remarkable degree. When only sixteen years of age, and while a student at Clinton, there was a series of revival meetings in the Baptist Church, which were largely attended by the students from the Institute and from Hamilton College. The eccentricities—to call them by no harsher term—of the minister officiating, involved him in several serious complications with the students and others, and one evening during his discourse he unwittingly, or perhaps as the result of chagrin,—because a few evenings previously Mr. Smith, in answering certain questions at his special request, completely refuted the positions he had assumed in his discourse,—made so unwarranted a personal attack, that Mr. Smith took the floor in his own vindication. The church being filled mainly with friends of the minister, at first the

feeling toward Mr. Smith was anything but favorable, but after he had spoken a short time, so eloquent and convincing were his remarks, that the minister descended from the pulpit, and proffering his hand, apologized for his conduct towards him; and the trustees of the church arose in the audience and publicly acknowledged that Mr. Smith's conduct had been marked with perfect decorum, expressing great regret at the uncalled-for remarks of their minister, which had necessitated and entirely justified Mr. Smith's vindication.

On another occasion he had a conversation with a number of young friends, who, like himself, were greatly interested in religious investigations, and at their urgent request finally consented to publicly discuss certain theological questions with two prominent ministers, who, at the time, were holding revival meetings in their respective churches. The discussions were continued for several evenings, and the church in which they were held was filled to overflowing. The speeches made by Mr. Smith were remarkable for their force and comprehensiveness of thought and statement. They were made entirely without notes, and showed in a striking manner his wonderful memory and powers of concentration. Some person expressing surprise at the number and accuracy of his scriptural and other quotations, and as to "where he kept them," was answered by another, "Any one seeing that forehead could easily tell." At the commencement of the discussion a majority of the audience could not certainly have been regarded as predisposed in his favor on the questions at issue, but such were his powers of persuasion and argument that on the third evening one of the three moderators selected to preside, and who sympathized with the views of the ministers, protested against a continuation of the debate, giving as his reason "that the sympathies of the audience had become so entirely with Mr. Smith, it was not a fair tribunal before which to continue the discussion; that while the strongest arguments and most eloquent appeals made by his ministerial friends fell upon apparently deaf ears, even a commonplace remark made by Mr. Smith was received with the most

rapturous applause." As showing Mr. Smith's consistency and power of restraint over an intense nature, it may be added that during this protracted and somewhat excited discussion, and on questions the most likely to create feeling and prejudice, he not only secured the approval of the audience, but so won upon the respect and confidence of his clerical opponents that he was strongly urged to speak in the church in which one of them officiated. This invitation he accepted, and such was the interest to hear him, that, although the night was one of the most inclement of the winter, the church was more crowded than at any previous time since its dedication.

Another illustration of his powers of debate and over an audience occurred when, during the second evening of an exciting discussion, an aged Quaker arose in the audience and said, "Mr. Moderators, I don't think the continuation of this discussion will in any way alter the final result. I am as confident now as when the debate first commenced, that those with whom I sympathize are right, and my young friend wrong; but he has such powers of speech—such a peculiar knack of making white look black, and black white, that I have no idea my friends would gain your decision should the discussion be continued a week!" The result and decision were such as might be imagined under the circumstances.

The characteristics manifested in the instances given are, doubtless, among the strongest possessed by Mr. Smith, and, as will be subsequently noticed, have shown themselves in a degree indicating that when he enters those channels of life which call for their more general exercise, they will insure him great prominence and influence.

When the subject of this sketch was twenty-one years of age, he went to Minnesota and stopped for a time at Red Wing, taking only some twelve hundred dollars, the amount which came to him through the sale of the homestead. His energy and sobriety at once attracted the attention and inspired the confidence of the



town proprietors, who, to induce him to remain, deeded him a large amount of property on desirable terms, taking no other security than his individual note. Although he remained there only a few months, he was during that time chosen delegate to the State Convention, and nominated with great unanimity for the Legislature, which nomination, owing to business reasons and his intention to settle in Minneapolis, he declined. The *Minnesota Times* of St. Paul thus comments:—

“Goodhue County has put in nomination some excellent Republicans. Melville C. Smith, Esq., who received the votes of the Convention, and declined in favor of Dodge County, in consequence of the probability of his removing to Minneapolis, is a young man of fine talents, and an earnest worker in the good cause. Although but a short time in the State, Mr. Smith has won the regards of his fellow-citizens by his straightforward and upright course.”

His promptness in all financial matters enabled him to get from the merchants, funds they were liable to require on an hour's notice to pay for goods brought by steamers to the landing; and this confidence on the part of business men, enabled him to make extensive purchases of land at the Government sales, which by care and discretion in selecting, he readily disposed of at greatly advanced prices, and within two years from his arrival in the State, he owned property valued at fifty thousand dollars above his obligations. At this period came the terrible financial crisis of '57, which was especially severe in its effects in the new States of the northwest. Parties owing him large amounts failed, and the real estate securities depreciated almost to nothing. Nearly all parties engaged in speculations failed, but Mr. Smith was one among the few who discharged all obligations and still retains the property he then owned. Although it required a struggle of years, and a payment of many thousand dollars of the exorbitant rates of interest which prevailed in that section at the time, he met and paid all in full, and, as indicative of his fairness, discretion, and management, with all his varied business experiences, has never as yet had a suit at law. No man could be more scrupulously just or have a more delicate sense of honor in his business relations. When the finan



cial crisis of '57 first broke upon the country, he had considerable sums of money which had been forwarded to him by friends from the East, who had no obligation for the indebtedness. His first act was to secure these claims by mortgages covering his entire property.

Mr. Smith is liberal but earnest in his religious views, and is, from principle, a practical temperance man, never having drank even so much as a glass of wine. In politics he has always been an ardent Republican, even so far back as '48 taking an active interest in the free-soil campaign. He also took part in the canvass of 1852, and has spoken more or less in all subsequent presidential campaigns.

For several years previous to 1863 his business interests had kept him much of the time in the East, and about this period, having property in the beautiful town of Lake City, on the Mississippi River, he was induced to change his residence from Minneapolis to that place, of which the *State Atlas* spoke as follows:—

“GOING TO LAKE CITY.—We learn with regret that our old friend and fellow-townsmen, Melville C. Smith, Esq., has decided to remove to Lake City with the view of taking up a permanent residence in that place.

“Mr. Smith was one of the early settlers of this place, coming here in 1855, and has always been among the most active and watchful in looking after the welfare of Minneapolis, not only in the matter of our material interests, but in all things pertaining to the well-being of our community.

“While, therefore, we regret to lose Mr. Smith as one of our residents, we can but congratulate our sister county, Wabasha, upon the acquisition of a citizen who will contribute so largely to her local interests, and in bidding ‘M. C.’ ‘good-bye’ we most heartily wish him that success and prosperity which his enterprise, sound sense, and staunch integrity of character so richly merit.”

Business detained him in the East most of the following year, and he returned to Lake City the latter part of July, 1864, having very few other acquaintances than three or four prominent citizens, who years previously, while attending court at Red Wing, heard him deliver an address on temperance, and from that time became his steadfast friends. These, notwithstanding his brief residence, urged that he should allow the use of his name for the position of state senator, and, to carry out their wishes, he spoke at the Congressional

Convention, and such was the enthusiasm he created, that he was urgently solicited to speak at all the principal towns in the District. This he did, and although the Senatorial Convention met in little over thirty days from the time of his return to Lake City, he had attained a degree of popularity, which resulted in his unanimous nomination, on which *The Lake City Leader* thus commented:—

“Melville C. Smith, Esq., of this place, the nominee for Senator, is a young man of irreproachable character, superior business qualifications, and of rare ability, both as a thinker and speaker. We predict that in our coming Legislature, which promises to be one of unusual strength, he will have no superior. Indeed, his pre-eminent fitness for the position was so apparent to all, that notwithstanding he has been a resident of our county but little more than a year, he was the unanimous choice of the Convention without a single dissenting voice. He is every way worthy both the confidence and honor.”

At the election which followed, he ran ahead of his ticket, receiving nearly twice as many votes as his opponent. As Senator, though by far the youngest member of that body, he took a prominent position, and his speeches—one of which was on changing the State Constitution to extend the right of suffrage—were the only ones of the session printed in the daily papers. He took a leading part in securing and locating the Mississippi Valley Railroad, requiring its construction through the principal towns of his district.

The conspicuous position which he attained, directed the attention of the leading men of his party to him as the most suitable and available candidate for Congress. As indicative of this popularity, we submit a few, from among numerous letters received by him from the most prominent Republicans in his Congressional District and the State.

“U. S. LAND OFFICE, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., July 25, 1865.

“FRIEND SMITH;—

“I am told that you think of leaving the State, with a view of going into business in New York. I am very sorry, for I had hoped you would remain here, and allow the use of your name for Congress. Should you conclude to do this, I have no doubt, as I mentioned to you last winter, that you would be nominated, and, of course, elected. I am satisfied you are the choice of the people. \* \* \* \*

“Your steadfast friend,

“DANA E. KING.

“Hon. M. C. SMITH, Lake City, Minn.”

"WINONA, MINNESOTA, August 1, 1865.

"HON. M. C. SMITH:—

"*My dear Friend*,—How long do you propose remaining at Minneapolis? I expect to go there soon, and would be glad to have a little talk with you.

"Many of your friends seem anxious you should become a candidate for Congress, and I have assured those who have spoken to me, that both you and they would have my best wishes and most hearty co-operation. My friend T. says you have different arrangements in view, and expresses fears that you would not consent to take the field. As, however, it is more satisfactory to talk over such matters, I will simply say that I shall be glad to do all in my power to forward your wishes, and that I hope you will not decide to leave our State until after I have seen you.

"Your friend,

"WM. WINDOM,

"(present U. S. Senator.)"

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"U. S. LAND OFFICE, ST. PETER, August 8, 1865.

"DEAR SMITH:—

\* \* \* \* \*

"Since I saw you I have been to Lake City and through various parts of the State, and I am even more fully satisfied than before that your leaving would cause universal regret; and I know, should you remain, that there is no position in the gift of the people you could not attain—Congressman, Governor, or U. S. Senator.

"I have before given what I think must be satisfactory reasons for this opinion. I now simply present the facts without argument for your consideration and decision. It seems a great opportunity for a young man to allow to pass; still, I appreciate the strong reasons you gave for a different course, and assuredly have all confidence in your discretion and judgment, and shall try and feel satisfied with your final decision whatever it may be.

"I remain, as ever, your true friend,

"A. TIBBETTS.

"To HON. M. C. SMITH, Minneapolis, Minn."

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"STATE OF MINNESOTA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

"SAINT PAUL, August 18, 1865.

"HON. MELVILLE C. SMITH:—

"*My Dear Sir*,—I am just in receipt of your resignation as Senator representing the Tenth Senatorial District.

"I deeply regret that your District and the State is to be deprived of so faithful and efficient a representative, and wish for you in any field of duty or enterprise which you may select, the greatest prosperity and success.

"Very truly, your friend,

"STEPHEN MILLER,

"Governor of Minnesota."

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"LAKE CITY, October 17, 1865.

"MY DEAR M. C:—

\* \* \* "I hardly feel reconciled yet to the idea of your leaving. Selfishly, perhaps, but more, I trust, because I wanted your influence for the good of our people and State. We need you. Minnesota lacks public men of ability and integrity. She has none but whom she can better afford to lose than yourself. It seems

a great pity that one with your power to influence men should be lost to the community. I most sincerely hope that your withdrawal will be of short duration. I saw you had these qualities when I first heard you speak, ten years ago, at Red Wing, and that as a public man you would never want for friends.

"Your departure is a great disappointment to our people. We wanted you in the Senate this winter—after that, as our Representative in Congress. You could then have been re-elected or made Governor as you chose, and at the expiration of your term, would undoubtedly have been chosen to fill the position of United States Senator. I hope you may return in time to do this yet, and that you will make your plans to enter public life at the earliest day possible.

"Respectfully, your friend,

"SAMUEL DOUGHTY.

"HON. M. C. SMITH,  
139 Broadway, New York."

These urgent solicitations made it necessary for Mr. Smith to determine whether to adhere to the reasons which had previously induced him to decline all public positions, or to make business and financial interests secondary, and at once to enter the political arena. He fully appreciated the importance of this decision, and replied to his friends, that within a few weeks he should determine either to accept their kind proffer, or to resign the position of Senator, which he had accepted with hesitation, and resume business. After thorough deliberation he decided on the latter course, replying to his friends that, while he had little regard for money as such, he found it not only a source of power but necessary to our comfort and the accomplishment of good—that it was one of the fundamental elements of success, and besides, that he had a much stronger desire to live comfortably than to die rich, and that as a portion of one's life, born without a fortune, must necessarily be devoted to business pursuits, it seemed to him to be more wise that it should be the earlier part—that if qualified for high political position, certainly he would not be less so with additional years and experience—that he considered no position an honor to a man unless he was an honor to it, and that, should he be elected to Congress, he would wish a renomination:—the first being an act of generous confidence, he would desire after trial to receive from those who had confided in him the indorsement of "well done, good and faithful servant." It being suggested that with his ability and powers



of management he could legitimately make money from his position, he replied, that he deemed corruption among public men, and the general distrust and demoralization resulting therefrom, prominent among the dangers threatening the stability of our institutions, and added: "While I do not assume to be more honest than others, should my fellows, in a spirit of generous confidence, confide important interests to my care, I should not in their absence add ingratitude to theft by robbing interests I was chosen to guard—there is no money in politics for me."

Those knowing Mr. Smith will appreciate the significance of these expressions as being like his temperate habits and all his rules of life—the result of fixed principles and deliberate convictions, to which he rigidly and conscientiously adheres. It was with such views and under these circumstances that he decided to take up his abode in New York. The *Minnesota State Atlas* thus spoke of his departure:—

"HONS. MELVILLE C. AND DELANO T. SMITH.—Last week we alluded to the fact that the above-named Minnesotians contemplated moving to New York City, and expressed our regret that the State was to lose two so worthy and prominent citizens. We are glad to learn that although they are to establish a business office in New York, they will retain most of their interest in Minnesota, and may still be considered as largely identified with our State. The Messrs. Smith were early settlers in Minnesota, and from the first, as business men and citizens, ranked among the most enterprising and prominent. Always foremost in whatever concerned the moral and material welfare of the community, earnest and energetic, and honest even above suspicion, they have won the fullest confidence of our people. Though largely involved in real estate transactions at the time of the terrible financial crash of '57, they were among the few who went through that trying ordeal with credit unimpaired and integrity unimpeached. Politically, both are effective workers, and on the right side; and to carry out their present business plans, resigned important positions of trust and confidence. In expressing our regrets at their departure, and heartily wishing them that success they so eminently deserve, we but express the feelings of all who know them."

During the war, Mr. Smith was among the most earnest and zealous in support of the Government, and has often expressed regret that his health and business situation precluded his entering the army. The following incident, narrated in a Western paper, indicates both his patriotism and kindness of heart:—



## THE TRUE SPIRIT TOWARDS THE SOLDIER.

"Young Baily, who was in our office a few days since, related this circumstance:—

"After the terrible battles of Pope's before Washington, in the Fall of '62, I was lying badly wounded in one of the hospitals, when one day a young gentleman, a stranger, called in and offered me money and some little necessities, and on learning that I had lost the most of my clothing in the fight where I lost my leg, took off his vest and gave me, remarking that he was obliged to leave the city early next morning, but his brother would see that all my needs were supplied, and would also furnish me papers from home, etc., which from that time were promptly done.

"A few weeks ago, I met in the Lake City Post-Office, that same young gentleman, who so kindly befriended me, and it was no other than Melville C. Smith."

While in Washington he joined a regiment for the defense of the Capitol, and being in New York during the terrible riot of 1863, was one of the few citizens who volunteered and joined the force of special police. He was active in his influence, and his speeches were among the most stirring appeals of the exciting contest. Leading New York papers thus speak of him:—

"A war meeting was held at Cedar Lake on the evening of July 4th. The address delivered by Melville C. Smith, Esq., of Minnesota, was one of great power and eloquence, and held the audience with unabated interest until a late hour. Speaking of the great principles underlying our struggle, his positions were sustained with an overwhelming citation of historical facts, and driven home with a force that made sympathizers with treason writhe. A copy of the speech was solicited for publication."—*Utica Morning Herald*.

"Mr. Smith is a young man of rare ability, with a mind at once comprehensive and analytical, and he enters into the themes which he discusses with such fervor as always to carry his audience with him. He has been doing a good work among the masses in the Eastern and Central part of the State, in setting forth with great clearness the causes and inevitable consequences of the war."—*Rochester Daily Democrat*.

He spoke at his home in Lake City, and, by request, continued his address on a subsequent evening. This speech was published by order of the State Union Committee, making a pamphlet of over fifty pages, remarkable for its historical quotations, and as a condensed statement of the facts and principles involved. We insert the following extracts:—

## FELLOW-CITIZENS:—

This fiery ordeal through which our country is passing—the furnace-heat of affliction in which it is being tried; the land wet with fraternal blood, and trembling beneath the tread of contending armies, spreading sorrow, desolation, and death; while the nation beholds her life flowing out like a mighty river, and stands appalled as she gazes into the dark abyss of dissolution—brings us face to face with the questions we have met to consider.

Why, then, is it, grim War stalks through the land? Why these gory battle-fields and silent graveyards? Why is blood on the nation's garments, and sorrow in the nation's heart? Three short years ago our land was the abode of peace and happiness. No other was as highly favored—enjoyed as great civil and religious liberty—was as blessed in every ramification of society. As a nation we had grown as by enchantment, and every sea was white with the sails of our prosperity. We were not only cherished with paternal care at home, but even in the remote islands of the sea, felt the strong arm of the nation's protection, till it was better to have been born an American than a king. The vast extent of our national domain; our untold resources, rapid increase in population, progress in science, art, and literature, under the fostering care of republican institutions, inspiring liberty-loving hearts, the world over; exciting fears of usurpers everywhere, and forcing admiration and respect even from kings and despots—our country stood forth alike the wonder and admiration of the age.

## OUR NATIONAL DISEASE.

Such, apparently, was our national condition, and thus were we regarded. But beneath all there was a canker gnawing at the nation's heart, a worm eating at its vitals, a venomous serpent poisoning its life-blood and corrupting its soul. It was possessed of a devil—SLAVERY! This is the serpent that entered our republican Eden, blighting our hopes and blasting our prosperity. This, that has palsied the public conscience and dragged the nation to its slaughter-cart through the blood of its sins and the filth of its iniquities; this, that has clothed the nation in the habiliments of mourning, sunk it in melancholy, and thrown over it the solemnity of the tomb. This is the source of our sorrows—the heartless fountain-head of our universal lamentation and grief—this that causes strong men to toil with heavy hearts, and soldiers to march the streets with arms reversed, in token of respect to our loved and honored dead. It is the withering curse of Slavery!—Slavery, that like a foul spectre has invaded every hearthstone, and with its bloody hand plucked a flower from the wreath that encircled the family altar; Slavery, that, having exhausted the catalogue of lesser crimes, turned national assassin; and even this Rebellion, wicked and atrocious as it is, is but a symptom of the disease—an outgrowth of this hell-born villainy.

This war is but a struggle between antagonistic principles,—a hand-to-hand contest between right and wrong, justice and injustice, liberty and slavery, God and the devil. Stripped of its cobwebs, shorn of its mean subterfuges, it is this—only this. Milton, in portraying the conflict between Gabriel and Lucifer, had no better example. Heaven and Hell could not have an issue more absolute and perpendicular. No human agency can thrust itself between the opposing forces. The issue is made, the conflict has begun; Treason cast the die; Slavery has crossed the Rubicon and challenges Freedom to battle. “By the Eternal” she shall be met! \* \* \* \* \*

Slavery from the first has been our evil genius, and is in its very nature “evil and only evil, and that continually.” It chattelizes the black, brutalizes the white, and meanly robs labor of its just reward; it nullifies the relation of husband and wife; ruthlessly violates those of parent and child; and brutally makes merchandise of the bones, blood, and souls of men. It pays a premium on the basest licentiousness, by making the sale of one's own offspring a profitable sin; incarcerates the mother in a dungeon for teaching the mutual child of herself and master to read the Bible; it strikes down every guarantee of human nature, and makes the charitable instincts of humanity a crime; tramples upon the attributes of the mind; dwarfs the soul, and lays waste the heart's best affections. It has been well said, “the best of slavery, is but slavery at best.”

It is the upas, rank with the blood of innocence, and with death-dews dripping from its every leaf. It is the sinful embodiment of the most monstrous crimes. More it could not be—less would not be Slavery.

*The title to every human being is in himself, GOD-GIVEN.* It is stamped in every part of his being—written in his very blood, and proclaimed in his every heart-throb. That power which assumes to take it from him, whether an individual or a nation, is a robber and an assassin. To attempt it, short of a decree from the Almighty, is hell-born audacity! All our country's wealth; its costly edifices; its structures of towering magnificence, are insignificant in the sight of God, compared with the shivering black woman who pleads at the base of our Capitol; and to-day, under Providence, this nation is being taught, in the severe school of affliction, *the sacredness of human nature.* \* \* \*

#### NORTHERN AGGRESSIONS.

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Freedom the aggressor! This is adding insult to injury, and ought to more than fill the measure of even slave-holding audacity. It was Slavery that basely polluted the shrine of Liberty at which the fathers worshiped, and treated with practical atheism the principles they taught. Slavery that made the Supreme Court simply a wicked instrument for recording its decrees, wanting in every element of sound law, and disgraceful to civilization. Slavery that molded Presidents and Cabinets to its unhallowed demands—laid its polluting hand upon Congress, shaping its doughfaces into vessels of dishonor suited to its own distorted imagination. Slavery that has cast a shadow over the good name of some of our great men; dug the political graves of many of our little men, like Franklin Pierce, deep in infamy; and has caused others, like Buchanan, to crawl the earth with the brand of Cain upon their brows—to patriotic men, objects of contempt! Slavery that in its malign influence has raised up political grub-worms that gnawed liberty out of the Constitution—aye, even generated weak and wicked ministers to claim for it Divine origin, and to interpret the Bible as a slave-holding ordinance.

Slavery, mad with ambition and plethoric with sin, sought to abrogate the right of petition; failing to betray and obtain California, for months fought against her admission as a free State; connived at, or openly supported the foreign slave-trade; tried to buy, and showed a strong disposition to steal Cuba, and sought in ways unspeakably mean to force slavery on free territory; subjected—as under the brutal code in New Mexico—free white persons to be whipped by their employers, and denying them redress in the courts; inflicting, as in Kansas, cruel and unheard of punishment for imaginary offenses.

We repeatedly settled it by "*compromise*," but it wouldn't *stay settled*. Territory that belonged to Freedom by divine right—which she afterwards bought at a poor bargain in the compromise of 1820—we suffered to be filched from us by the infernal legislation of '54, in the meantime having sandwiched our menial service to sin by a fugitive slave act, more hellish in its instincts than ever disgraced any nation on God's green earth which had ability enough to write its own record. Slavery mutilated our literature; disrupted our churches; infused its venomous poison into tracts circulated by our Bible Societies; stifled our presses; practically suspended the writ of Habeas Corpus; and, in a large portion of the Union, by turns as suited its caprices, tarred and feathered, or cruelly murdered, all who assumed the prerogative of freedom of speech.

Thus the disease grew, and the poison spread, and by flattery and frauds, violence and brutality, the South pushed her aggressions, the North tamely submitting, begging

for rights she should have demanded, bearing wrongs and forbearing censure, until an insignificant minority of slave-holders prostituted this great Government to their own base purposes. Thus we lived this hypocritical sham, vainly fancying we could crucify humanity, outrage justice, and cheat the Almighty of our inevitable destiny. \* \* \*

## THE CULMINATION.

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The first shot that hissed through the air at Sumter was the sinful embodiment—the condensed expression—of the vileness of slavery. It marked an epoch in the world's moral history; for in challenging the nation to arms it summoned itself to judgment. What an hour! The patriots of the Revolution must have turned in their coffins, and the spirits of Washington, Adams, Jefferson and the mighty dead, gathered over that beleaguered fortress! *That* shot sounded the death-knell of Slavery, and opened the door for the nation's deliverance. *We* didn't mean abolition, but the *shot* did. Neither did our fathers in 1775 intend Independence; but Liberty when aroused makes thorough work—in the words of John Hampden, “takes no step backwards.”

We bore insult so long, and the night of our degradation was so dark, that many brave souls wearied watching for the coming day; but the first shot belched by rebel cannon broke the nation's nightmare. The long roll sounded, and she stood forth nobly to her work! Her heart that was pulseless, beat with the newness of life; traitors were floated like dead-wood on the resistless current, or consumed by the burning indignation of the people. Old and young caught the spirit of the fathers—Liberty vitalized even conservatism into life—parties were lost in patriotism, and the nation, with the sword of justice uplifted, beneath the folds of the time-honored flag, swore Freedom should not perish!

How much of history is crowded in the few brief months that followed! How various the emotions it calls up! How we felt when we heard the old flag had been fired upon—Massachusetts boys murdered in Baltimore! How our blood grew hot; how it came and went as we read of a skirmish, or some new victim to treason and death! How we grieved for Ellsworth, the Warren of our struggle—how we lamented Lyon, the Leonidas of the war—how we mourned for Baker, the Hampden of Liberty! How, by and by, weak souls, poisoned by Slavery, quibbled over the right of coercion—talked of the superiority of Southern chivalry and our poor prospect of success! How slowly we put on the mantle of manhood and asserted our equality; how leniently we dealt with traitors, issuing menial proclamations through our Generals in command, until loyal men blushed from very shame, and felt to cry, “How long, O Lord, how long!” \* \* \*

## A WORD OF EXPLANATION.

I have had occasion to speak much of evils deserving condemnation. I have yet to speak of “Copperheads;” and that the *spirit* in which I condemn may not be misunderstood, a word, not of apology, but of explanation will be given. While I despise those mealy-mouthed, willy-wonty, canny-canty, white-livered individuals who never take sides without an “*if*” or a “*but*,” I have no sympathy with unreserved and uncalled-for denunciation. As for myself, if I know my own heart, I have too much charity for human nature; appreciate too highly its rights and sacredness to cause the meanest man living, *unnecessarily*, one twinge of pain, one pang of suffering, even one unpleasant thought. Regarding as I must the claims of wisdom and justice, I would above all cultivate charity, and spread wide its broad mantle to cover the weaknesses—I had almost said the *wickednesses*—of human kind; would ever remember that we are all chil-



dren of a common Father, groping our way—slowly through the darkness and soul-crucifixions of sin though it may be—up, up to the realms of universal light and love; and that every man, be he white or black, elevated or degraded, loyalist or traitor, is my brother.

In the light of this gospel I would lovingly cherish the deepest, most comprehensive sympathy, and pray my heart might ever be a stranger to revenge. May God grant me that veneration for His infinite wisdom, justice and love, that through this divine Trinity I may be strengthened to act my part wisely and well; that I may venerate wisdom comprehensive, justice inexorable, and love pervading all. Justice! yet so tempered with mercy, that even in the hottest strife, with enemies personal or the enemies of mankind, I may contribute my weak efforts for the punishment of crime, and still in the spirit which ascended from the Cross, prayerfully utter from the innermost depths of my soul—"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do!" \* \* \*

#### PEACE-MEN.

We have "peace-men," who if not traitors, would make them if the material were strong enough—who are mildly aquatic and timorously lacteal; who want bullets greased and rammed down with propositions of peace; constantly crying to Uncle Sam as the Irishman did to the cat: "*Hould still while I skin ye aisy!*"—who pray for the country, as the man did for negro Tom in whom he had a half-interest.—"Lord bless nigger Tom, *especially my half!*"—who are willing the Union should be reconstructed provided the tail can control; but this is contrary to nature, as is clearly shown by the philosophy of Lord Dundreary, who asks—"Why doth the dog waggle hith tail? Because the dog ith stwonger than the tail. If he wathen't, the tail would waggle the dog."

You cry peace! *peace!* when there is no peace. If in blissful ignorance of this fact, let the roar of cannon and the shrieks of the dying open your deaf ears—the glitter of bayonets and the flash of sabres open your blind eyes! He who now cries "peace" amid the hissing of shot and shell, his voice drowned by the jeers of his enemies and the groans of his dying comrades, is too weak for heaven, too pusillanimous for hell.

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#### OUR SOLDIERS.

Never can we repay the unnumbered heroes, who, bidding farewell to home, friends, and all that men hold dear, have gone forth to offer up their blood as holy incense on their country's altar—who throwing themselves into the deadly breach, in blaze of sun, in blinding snows, in hunger and thirst, have borne long wearisome marches, forded swollen torrents, stood on the lonely night-watch, languished in filthy prisons, and nobly faced privations, pain and death that the nation might live. These, indeed, are the demigods of Liberty. Theirs is the quiet, unassuming and heroic virtue—dazzled by no mad ambition, yet firm as adamant, in the sublime faith that they are fighting the battles of God and liberty.

I bow to American soldiers with a respect and reverence I could not yield to king or monarch. Well may the nation honor them—their heroic patience, their sublime faith, their undying patriotism; well may we bedew their graves with our tears; their way to glory is one of suffering and sacrifice: far from kindred, tortured with thirst, no friendly voice to administer comfort, no kind hand to give a cup of water, or stanch their wounds; no solace but death's fevered dreams bringing up home and the dear ones whom they will never meet till in the better land! Many a noble one has died



thus; others have returned to us weary, wasted, bronzed, and battle-scarred,—mere shadows of the stalwart men they were; wan and weak they totter through our streets like aged men. Let the nation give them her sympathy and protection. Let her enshrine in her heart the living and the dead, and crown them with flowers of affection. God bless our soldiers!

## PATRIOTIC WOMEN.

Witness the spirit of heroic self-sacrifice, serene patience and sublime faith of our patriotic women. How they have toiled to relieve the sufferings and promote the comfort of our soldiers! How many a wife and mother among our poor country-women has struggled one long weary year after another, tortured by suspense, and agonized with the fear that the beloved head and hope of the family might never return! With what anxiety—battle after battle—she glances over the long list of the dead, and how at lonely eve tears have come unbidden, as her little children have offered up their nightly prayer for the father's safety and return; and yet, poor, desolate and alone, for her country's sake patiently enduring all, without murmur or complaint. How have even widowed mothers given up their only sons, orphaned sisters their brothers, and the new-made bride the dearest offering of her heart, it may be to fall in battle, perchance to linger in prison, or to die amidst scenes of cruelty and suffering, the mere thought of which makes the cheek blanch, the brain reel, and the soul sick.

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## OUR POSITION AND RESPONSIBILITY

I have never felt that the nation was sick unto death; nor have I looked for a speedy peace. Being a war of *principle*, it must necessarily be desperate and exhaustive; but in sacrifices and blood the nation shall pass the Red Sea to its deliverance.

In his own good time and way, when worthy of it, God will save the nation; and well may the thoughtful patriot watch our *moral* progress with even more anxiety than the advance of our armies. In the light of the great principles at issue, we cannot over-rate our individual and national responsibility. With varied hopes and fears, the eyes of the whole world are upon us—the despot desiring our destruction, the down-trodden our success. We contend against the imprecations of the wicked, but are aided by the prayers of the good. Let us be equal to this great responsibility and fulfill our high destiny. Let us make up no attempt to cheat the Almighty, but build on a sure foundation, recognizing one great human heart, one broad universal justice. Avoiding the mistake made by the fathers of laying one corner-stone on Plymouth rock, and another on the quagmire of Southern slavery, let us build on the granite of God's justice and in the spirit of universal liberty.

Standing by the graves of our fathers, drawing wisdom from the spirit of the past, light from the living present, faith and courage from the eternal future, let us swear to perfect their noble design. Slow to fight, let us show Slavery we fight but once!

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## FIRST PURE, THEN PEACEFUL.—CONCLUSION.

It seems under Providence to have been necessary, that battle-field after battle-field should be watered with the blood of our beloved—leaving hearths and hearts desolate and piling up hecatombs of the dead—that the ark of our liberty should be tempest-tost, till it reel and quiver beneath the storm, to teach us that high and low, black and white, must sink or swim together. But with our flag now purified by this baptism, the "Old

Ship of State"—clad in the full armor of justice, with Liberty as its guiding star—shall bear its precious freight across this bloody sea triumphant. God is, indeed, "on the side of the strongest battalions," but the strongest battalions are eternal principles of right. Mere physical force and material outlines come to naught, but the spirit of truth is ever victorious. Our bodies decay, our bones fret to dust, the soul wins the immortal victory!

When the fire of this Civil War shall have consumed the corrupting dross of Slavery, then, and not till then, will the nation be welded in perfect union and love. Then, no longer will the wail of the bondman mingle with the shout of the freeman; the altar-fires, kindled by the fathers, shall never grow dim; the graves of our brave and beautiful will have borne their fruit; the din of war shall be stilled—the blood of battle-fields dried up—the clouds lifted from the troubled face of our beloved country—the Goddess of Liberty appear crowned with a diadem of six-and-thirty stars—the oppressed of all nations gather beneath the folds of the old flag, as under the cooling shadow of a great rock, and ours shall be, indeed, "the chosen land of liberty!" Men and angels shall rejoice—the morning stars sing together—the birds warble a more joyous song—the air of heaven seem purer and brighter, and all Nature join to swell the glad anthem of our NATION'S DELIVERANCE!

Hark! there comes the sweep of wings;  
 Holy angels hover near!  
 Earth their heavenly chorus rings,  
 —Glory to the King of Kings,  
 PEACE AND PURITY ARE HERE!

On their arrival in New York, the Smith Brothers opened a law and real-estate office on Broadway, and the subject of this sketch purchased a quarry in the Vermont slate regions. He, however, very soon became impressed with the great necessity for more adequate accommodation for the trade and travel, and the commerce of the city, and was elected a director of the New York Pier and Warehouse Company, but devoted his energies almost entirely to perfecting and popularizing a plan for duplicating Broadway, known as the "Arcade Railway." This plan being so complete and comprehensive, at first struck many as visionary, and aroused the opposition not only of rival companies, but also of the omnibus and surface railroad lines, and other important interests to be affected; but his great patience, perseverance, and management have gained for the enterprise, considering the obstacles, extraordinary success and popularity, as will be seen by Reports made by the ablest engineers, and articles in the newspaper press, limited extracts from which are herewith appended:—

"NEW YORK ARCADE RAILWAY.—The rapid growth of New York City in wealth

and population, with the corresponding increase in trade and travel, have so crowded the thoroughfares and overburdened the means of transportation, that the imperative demand for relief has naturally awakened the active thoughts and creative faculties of many minds. Among the numerous plans presented, the most complete and comprehensive is that of the Arcade Railway, projected by Hon. Melville C. Smith.

"It is an *under surface* railway, which contemplates the use of the entire width of the streets and avenues under which it passes, the general plan of construction being the excavation of a sub-way street, with sidewalks for foot-passengers, at a general level of twelve feet below the grade of the present sidewalks, and between these sidewalks a central roadway some three feet lower, in which are to be placed four railway tracks, the upper street to be supported on columns and girders, with arches between, and completed with a road-bed and pavement of the most approved construction.

"It is estimated that the cost of the road will be \$1,600,000 per mile, and that by opening three places for working to a mile, and progressing from each a lineal yard per day, it would require two years for the construction of the work; temporary movable bridges, in the meantime, preventing any obstruction to travel.

"Having four tracks, it would afford rapid transportation for both freight and passengers, with full accommodation for the way and through travel, thus completely relieving Broadway—an advantage not even claimed for any other plan.

"It combines the advantages of both the tunnel and elevated ways, and avoids the disadvantages of each, being strong and safe, and admitting of rapid speed, and at the same time being airy, light, and pleasant for travel; the open area ways, with the addition of dead-lights in the sidewalks (if necessary) affording perfect daylight to the street and stores below.

"Instead of being offensive to the eye and disfiguring the street, as some of the other systems inevitably must, it will, from its open construction, be an ornament to the city, forming an elegant arcade, surpassing any other street in the world for the magnificence of its design and the utility of its arrangement."—*American Institute Report*, 1868.

"About three years ago, Hon. Melville C. Smith, who may be considered the father of this great enterprise, commenced his energetic efforts to impress upon the public mind the practicability and importance of the Arcade Railway, as the best possible mode of accommodating the trade and transit of New York.

"Rival enterprises have been conceived and pressed upon the attention of the public, but the indefatigable labors of Mr. Smith have resulted in the conviction that the Arcade Railway is not only practicable, but has become an absolute necessity, to meet the demands of the city.

"Fortunately for the progressive development of the world, here and there men rise up in advance of the general mind, to mark out new ways for the plodding million, who have always been slow and incredulous in regard to great enterprises, however practical and necessary.

"Like the other great works, through which the human family have been so wonderfully blessed, the Arcade Railway has found a champion in Mr. Smith, whose grasp of intellect has fully comprehended the enterprise in all its vast proportions; and whose untiring application has enabled him to master it in all its details."—*City Reporter*.

"As an achievement of science it will challenge the admiration of the world, not merely by its beautiful architectural proportions, but infinitely more, by the benefits it will confer upon the people as an eloquent expounder of the law of progress.

"Mr. Smith, the projector of this great enterprise, has convinced every unprejudiced mind who has examined the subject, that the Arcade Railway is the only plan by which

to relieve the overcrowded thoroughfares of this island city. Every citizen ought to feel it his duty to aid in carrying it through upon its own merits, independently of all corrupt and corrupting influences. This has been, and is, the settled purpose of Mr. Smith, and to that end he has labored with untiring patience and perseverance, to attract to its support men with 'clean hands and an honest purpose,' to enable him to carry on the work to a glorious consummation, as a monument, not only to science, but to virtue, intelligence, and *old-fashioned honesty*."—*World Reformer*.

"Of all the various schemes proposed, we see nothing which holds out any real promise so well as the New Broadway plan, officially known as the Arcade Railway. One feels, as he studies this plan, a little like the fox described by Massinger, who, 'when first he saw the forest's king, the lion,' found his breath nearly taken away, but at last became familiarized with the great creature, and began boldly to admire and frankly to criticise. For the Arcade Railway scheme proposes to attempt 'a big thing,' which seems audacity itself at first, but which, studied more closely, begins to show itself quite as feasible as many a little thing."—*Galaxy*.

"Since the ingenuity of man has been applied to the improvement of cities, no conception more magnificent than this of the Arcade Railroad has been brought forward. If the road were constructed, every New Yorker would be more proud of it than of any other ornament of the city; and we should all wonder that men could have been found to oppose it, just as we now wonder at those who fought against the introduction of the Croton water. It will injure nobody, and benefit everybody."—*N. Y. Sun*.

"A more brilliant and thoroughly practicable conception than that of the Arcade Railway was never evoked for the accommodation of popular circulation in a great city; and the value of it is that whenever applied, or if universally applied, it builds a city two stories high, thus doubling the surface for commercial transit and popular travel."—*Herald*.

"We trust that every property-owner and inhabitant of New York who has the grandeur and completeness of the Empire City at heart, will sustain the project, in order that the Legislature may be more inclined to sanction such a legitimate, such a magnificent, and such a brilliant undertaking."—*Boyd's Shipping Gazette*.

"The Arcade plan will add an immense avenue, traversing the heart of the metropolis, and affording a scene without parallel the world over."—*Moore's Rural New Yorker*.

"The Arcade Railway combines the advantages of all the other plans, and is singularly free from their defects."—*Engineering and Mining Journal*.

"This will give to the people the great boon of sure, rapid, and cheap communication, and be an attraction to out of town visitors, second only to that of the great Central Park."—*Scientific American*.

"All other plans thus far presented sink into mere rat-holes when compared with the Arcade."—*Brooklyn Daily Union*.

"To Messrs. James Brown, A. A. Low, John Jacob Astor, and Wilson G. Hunt:—

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"After having examined the various plans proposed for relieving Broadway, and, at the same time, securing the cheapest, most convenient, and most rapid transportation of freight and passengers from one extremity of the city to the other, I have no hesitation in saying, that the plan recommended by Mr. Smith presents advantages incomparably greater than any other plan that has ever been presented.

"Yours, with great respect,

"PETER COOPER."



The following will convey an impression of the importance of the contest before the Legislature in 1868:—

"A very convincing and complete argument was made by Hon. M. C. Smith, and the bill will probably be shortly reported by the Railway Committees of both Houses. The Arcade plan is recommended by some of the first engineers of the country; and it comes here with the prestige of having no taint of corruption upon it, and of being supported and urged by men in both Houses, concerning whom no suspicion of improper motives would be entertained. The friends of the bill presented petitions for its passage signed by over 4,000 owners and occupants of premises on Broadway, among whom are some of the heaviest owners on the street."—*The N. Y. World*.

"The Arcade bill seems now sure to pass; the project is an excellent one in every way; and the Legislature which gives us this road will be gratefully remembered by the people.

"Our Albany correspondent gives an interesting account of its unanimous passage in the Assembly by 109 votes, the greatest number ever given for a railroad bill in the Legislature. This popularity is owing to the fact that the managers, instead of the appliances too common in such cases, introduced their measure under the auspices of men of the highest character in the Legislature. It has been approved almost unanimously by the public press of the city and State, and has the sanction of the best engineers. It has already been reported to the Senate, and a majority of senators are said to be in its favor."—*N. Y. Evening Post*.

"The bill for the Arcade Underground Railway was taken up and passed on Friday night by a vote of 101 to 1. On the next day J. L. Flagg, of Troy, who had voted in the negative, changed his vote, and seven other delegates were recorded in the affirmative. The Arcade plan has thus the proud and distinctive honor of having passed in a full House without a dissenting vote. This is a triumph unparalleled in underground campaigns.

"The victory is the more marked, because this corporation is by no means the richest of those who have applied for charters, and has never been charged with attempting to use unlawful means for securing its end. Without the aid of a lobby, but with faith and enthusiasm that has been most marked, its projectors have carried out their purpose as proclaimed from the start, of passing the bill on its merits."—*Rochester Democrat*.

"The most important of all these underground schemes, and the one which will raise the real opposition of the surface folks, is the Arcade road. So strong has it become that the surface folks are alarmed, and have therefore determined to defeat the Arcade at all hazards. They cannot do this without a lavish expenditure of money. *So Albany is filled with paid lobby agents, and a handful of millionaires bid fair to defeat the wishes of the great mass of the people.*

"The Arcade has the indorsement of nearly every engineer in the State of New York, and of others who have personally examined and made a study of the tunnel in London. One thing commendable in this bill is, that it is not pushed by the regular lobbyists, who infest Albany year after year. Had such a railroad been constructed ten years ago, four hundred thousand people, and hundreds of millions' worth of property, would have been saved to the State."—*New York Tribune*.

"The Central Underground bill boasted A. T. Stewart, Judge Hilton, Senator Campbell, and one Brown, among its most valiant defenders. The Arcade bill was defended by an army of engineers, builders, architects, journalists, and others, an array of practical talent such as Albany has never seen gathered upon a single bill."—*N. Y. Citizen*.



"There was a Waterloo defeat of underground and surface railroad schemes in the Senate to-day, known respectively as the Manhattan Underground Railroad, People's Railroad, People's Metropolitan and Suburban Railway, New York Underground Railroad, Metropolitan Underground Railroad, and Metropolitan Transit Railway. Five of these were projects for underground roads. The remaining one, the surface plan, was the proposed People's Railway. The Arcade plan, as I have prophesied, will be the winning road."—*Herald*.

"The Arcade railroad, which passed the Assembly last week by an unprecedented unanimous vote—one hundred and nine—was fought through against the determined opposition of all the other city railroad schemes, and is the only bill which can pass the Legislature for the relief of New York. It has received the universal commendation of the press and public, with the exception of those interested in a surface road.

"The examination of the scheme before the Senate committee lasted *three entire days*, and nearly every prominent engineer in the United States—among them William J. McAlpine, former State Engineer; Charles Thurston, Nathaniel Cheney, Vice-President of the Architectural Iron Works; J. N. Greene, Engineer of the Lake Superior Ship Canal; and General Quinby, of the Rochester University—testified to the perfect feasibility of the plan.

"Forty distinct plans for Broadway travel have been laid before the Legislature, but the Arcade, in our opinion, is the best for the city, for property owners, and for the public, and we fervently trust that the Senate, in their wisdom, will pass it. When completed, Broadway will become, indeed, the wonder of the world."—*N. Y. Evening Mail*.

"The Arcade road failed in the State Senate, and more's the pity. It was an original and splendid scheme, one worthy of the great metropolis, and which would have beautified our noble city. But the wealthy owners of property on Broadway defeated it by their money. A meeting was held, the funds subscribed, and the Senatorial votes purchased to defeat it by one majority."—*Real Estate Record*.

The following allude to the contest of 1869, but refer mainly to that of 1870:—

"*Railway Legislation*.—There will doubtless be a multitude of projects before the next Legislature, as there was before the last, for supplying this great want of our city, but what are to be their merits and what their chances of success? The plan known as the 'Arcade Railway' has been before the last two Legislatures, and, although it was generally denounced at first as 'visionary,' there is no concealing the fact that it has constantly grown in popular favor, and to-day commands a larger share of public confidence than any other scheme for an underground railroad in this city ever offered to the public. Its entire practicability is vouched for, after full examination, by the first engineers in the country, including Hon. Wm. J. McAlpine, General E. L. Viele, General C. B. Stuart, General George B. McClellan, General I. F. Quinby, and many others. It has received the indorsement of the New York Produce Exchange, of the American Institute, and of a large proportion of the leading merchants and capitalists of this city—men like Commodore Vanderbilt, Peter Cooper, H. B. Claflin, George Opdyke, E. S. Brown, W. T. Coleman, and others of this class. It is, moreover, an American invention—entirely unlike any English or other foreign underground roads—and could readily command American capital to build it, which no other scheme for an underground road in this city has hitherto been able to do. On its first introduction to the Legislature in 1868, its popularity with the members was such that it passed the Assembly unanimously, on its merits alone, without the aid of money, and only failed in the Senate by

one vote. Last winter it was not pressed to a vote, owing, among other causes, to the venality that prevailed in that body, but the proposed route of the road was kept clear from infringement by any rival project."—*New York Times*.

"Most of the leading papers are strongly in favor of the Arcade, yet it was defeated by trickery in a former legislature. But Hon. Melville C. Smith, the author of the plan, is urging the thing with great energy and persistence, and it seems as if he must succeed. It is by far the best, if not the only plan worth naming."—*American Baptist*.

"The Hon. Melville C. Smith, who last year with exceeding ability and care succeeded in presenting his plan, the Arcade, so forcibly that it was generally received as the most perfect, and, in fact, the only one feasible, has opened his batteries, and will have nothing to fear, unless from the bulky capitalists. The Arcade has worked its own way; year after year the best men of the State have gradually gravitated towards it, until now it is the favored plan of some of the best engineers in the world. That it will become a law is certain, and when a law, some of the largest capitalists of New York pledge themselves that the work shall be at once commenced."—*New York Express*.

"So elaborate is its plan, so comprehensive its character, that it at first struck the mind as one of those theoretical wonders that engineers have for ages proposed, and in which they have failed. But after a time familiarity toned down what had appeared to be abstractions into the most easily accomplished results of mechanical skill. This year, with a wisdom that cannot be too greatly praised, the accomplished manager of the interests of this great enterprise, Melville C. Smith, Esq., brought before the committees the most eminent engineers in America, who dissipated the fears of the committee and put at rest all doubts of the success of this the most elaborate work of the kind in the world. Another point of great interest to the whole country is, that when the Arcade is completed, the great western lines of road will be able to run their trains on the tracks of this road, and so land passengers and freight at any point in the city down to the Battery."—*Rochester Democrat*.

"The 'superficial' speculators are in arms against the Arcade. They see in its success death to their monopolies, and a speedy end to the penny swindle. They will spend half a million to defeat the 'Arcade,' and not succeed after all. The force here is a strong one. The Arcade railroad is ahead.

"If ever any man deserved success to carry through a public project, it is Melville C. Smith, the *deus ex machina* of the 'Arcade Railway.' Year in and year out he has advocated the merits of his scheme before the Legislature, until he seems to have conquered opposition, and turned enemies into friends. The bill passed last year in the Assembly, but did not go through the Senate. This year, it passed the Senate, and counts upon a large majority in the other house. It is certainly one of the most magnificent projects, both in a financial view and as a public convenience, that has ever commanded the attention of capitalists."—*New York Dispatch*.

"The Arcade Railroad bill was reached in the Senate this afternoon, and was discussed for two hours. The whole scheme had been so thoroughly discussed in Committee and elsewhere that the debate was generally deemed useless, and the opposition to it, largely factious. The discussion closed by ordering the bill to a third reading—ayes 18, nays 8. The bill will doubtless pass both Houses, unless the rumors are true that a pile of money is to be used to defeat it."—*Times*.

"The Arcade Railroad Bill was taken up in the Assembly, when its opponents commenced the most extraordinary filibustering tactics to prevent a vote being taken that have been witnessed in the Legislature this winter. The bill, on its final pas-

sage, received 93 votes to 27 against it. Hon. John A. Griswold telegraphed that he hoped the Arcade bill would pass, and if so, it would certainly be built. A large number of prominent citizens and capitalists of New York have also written to members, urging the passage of the bill. It is but simple truth and justice to state that there has not been an important bill before the Legislature this winter in which so much pains have been taken to enlighten members with regard to its character and merits."—*Same*.

"The bill for the construction of the Arcade Railway passed the Assembly yesterday afternoon, receiving an affirmative vote of ninety-four, an astonishing result, considering the character of the opposition. Capitalists with their millions are waiting to invest their money in the enterprise. His Excellency, therefore, can find no tenable ground upon which to base refusal to sanction the inauguration of this work. The Arcade Railway is a public benefaction, of national interest. Nothing of a temporizing nature will answer. Whatever is done should include within its scope the sweep of centuries and afford means of freight transportation and facilities for passenger travel for all time to come."—*Albany Evening Journal*.

"The Arcade Railroad plan under Broadway, aside from its boldness of design, its ultimate success as a work of skillful engineering, and its final crowning success to the capitalist as a profitable and permanent investment, especially recommends itself to the working classes. Will our Chief State Executive bear in mind that while a score of old fogies, representing, as they say, \$350,000,000 capital, are opposing the road for no sound or tangible reasons, either expressed or implied, that 500,000 working people demand the sanction to the measure, and the construction of the road? Also, that the said 500,000 working people, at \$1,000 per head (which was a fair valuation for slaves before the war), represent \$500,000,000 capital, and can control 100,000 votes?"—*National Workman*.

"Does Governor Hoffman propose to deprive the people of New York and of Westchester county of the means of rapid transit now within their reach, because a few omnibus owners and Broadway millionaires are determined that things shall remain as they are? The Arcade has stood the test of a three years' campaign at Albany. It has been subjected to every possible criticism, and has triumphantly answered all objections. Unable to argue longer against it, its enemies are now endeavoring to frighten the Governor from signing the bill granting it a charter.

"The Governor must understand the responsibility he assumes if he refuses to sign this bill. It was passed by a vote of more than two-thirds of the members of the Legislature, in answer to a great popular demand, and after a most thorough investigation and discussion in committee and in the two Houses. It is a wise, sound, and honest bill. It promises a greater benefit to this city than any measure that has passed the Legislature since the act which authorized the building of the Croton Aqueduct. It will be a blessing to all, the rich as well as the poor; and if a few rich men now defeat it, they will harm themselves much, but they will harm the great public more. Let us see whether the Governor has the wisdom to serve the many, or the weakness to bow to the dictation of a few."—*New York Sun*.

"The Governor ought to sign this bill. It is not strange that an opposition should spring up to this plan of relief, nor that the opponents should be the men who will reap the largest benefit from it if it be carried out. These men have no sense of public interest, nor care for the growth of the city; they do not see beyond the boundaries of their own corner lots, and they join the monotonous procession who exert all their force in holding back the horses. They should adopt this as their motto: 'Progression

checked and retrogression encouraged.' The Arcade has the merits of the best route and the best plan, and the public interests, including the true interests of the men who oppose it, require the Governor to sign this bill."—*The World*.

"A strong pressure will be brought to bear upon Governor Hoffman to induce him to veto the Arcade Railway bill, which passed the Legislature by such a handsome majority. Already property-owners along Broadway have held a meeting to that end, which is said to have represented one hundred millions of dollars' worth of property. That is a considerable sum of money to stake against the interests of the people, and we should not be surprised if a dollar was found to be of more weight in the Executive Chamber than a ballot. Not that Governor Hoffman is to be bought off from signing this bill; but that the interests of certain property-holders, and the influence they can command, will overtop and overpower the interests of the people, who, through their representatives, have voted for the bill."—*Globe*.

"The Arcade plan is good—it is feasible—it is grand. It is akin to the Suez Canal. It will, if carried out, help to make New York the wonder of the world.

"The bill passed the Senate and Assembly by an unusual majority; so large that no question can be raised as to the favorable opinion of the members of the Legislature. The testimony of the first engineers of the country—the request for its passage by thousands of property-holders on Broadway—the demand for such relief for Broadway as this will bring—gave the measure extraordinary features of recommendation.

"Since its passage, and while waiting for the Governor to sign or veto, Belmont, Stewart, and the Trinity Church property trustees declare the bill shall not become a law. Inasmuch as it is presumptuous for the people to move without the consent of millionaires, it may be well enough to call a special session of the Legislature, and give all the affairs of State into the hands of those who never earned a dollar or gave employment to a person—man, woman, or child—except for their own pleasure and political or financial aggrandizement."—*New York Democrat*.

"The most important contest will evidently be on the Arcade Railroad bill. Perhaps never before were such large and peculiar interests involved in any controversy on a bill awaiting Executive action. The hearing of the parties chiefly concerned on this question will render Wednesday a remarkable day in the Executive Chamber."—*Tribune*.

"Deputations of the best citizens of Westchester county, and of the upper wards of New York, appeared in the Senate Chamber, earnestly desiring the signing of the bill. The statement of the engineers demonstrated the project to be feasible, and in no sense chimerical. Several persons who went up to Albany to oppose the bill returned to New York hoping that it would be signed. Indeed, the enterprise, if authorized, will probably be the most popular ever set on foot in this city. Its capacity for carrying passengers would be greater than all of the surface roads on the island."—*Evening Post*.

"Gov. Hoffman has sent to the Secretary of State, without his approval, the act authorizing the construction of the Broadway Arcade Railroad. His principal objection seems to be that nothing is required to be paid into the city treasury in return for the privileges which the bill professes to confer upon the railroad company. Considering that all the citizens and property-holders in the city would be immensely benefited by it, this objection would seem to be much more captious than solid. The Governor might better have contented himself with refusing to sign the bill, and not have argued the question at all.

"The simple truth is, that Gov. Hoffman has succumbed to the pressure brought to bear upon him by some of the millionaires who own real estate on Broadway, and who fear that the Arcade Railroad may possibly diminish its value. He has taken the side



of the rich against the poor; of the capitalist against the laboring classes; of the aristocrats against the people. He has turned a deaf ear to the cry of the toiling thousands who demand cheap and rapid transportation between the upper and the lower part of the city, and listened only to the appeals of gentlemen with heavy bank accounts."—*New York Sun*.

"The long agony about the fate of the Arcade Railway bill is over. How much private 'pressure' has been brought to bear on Gov. Hoffman the public never will know; but it is safe to say that it has been more severe and trying than was ever before endured by any Governor in this country."—*Evening Mail*.

"Governor Hoffman has sent the Arcade Railroad bill to the office of the Secretary of State without his signature. We do not propose to review his reasons. An attempt to answer or confute them would be as absurd, at this stage of the question, as for the defeated counsel in a lawsuit to offer to reargue the case after the judge had pronounced his decision. We have given expression to the public sense, and have advocated the Arcade Railroad because it seemed the most feasible and promising method of reaching the desired result. The reasons which convinced us were indorsed by a strong body of public opinion, and by a large majority of both branches of the Legislature. We trust that the veto merely postpones this great work for another year."—*World*.

"The reasons assigned by Gov. Hoffman for not assenting to the Arcade Railway bill, though specious and specific, are not well founded nor honestly urged. The Governor's objections are not such as will commend themselves to the people of this city. Having made up his mind to defeat this purpose on behalf of our over-crowded streets, he assigns for it the reasons which come to him—not as a reason, but an afterthought. But how is the Governor to answer to the people of New York for denying them the relief they so urgently demand? In obedience to a few property-owners he has dwarfed the great city of proportions and defeated the most feasible scheme for building up the neighboring counties in this State, while his action assures to New Jersey a large part of our overflowing population. It passed a Democratic Senate and a Democratic Assembly by large majorities, and was sent to a Democratic Governor for his sanction. It passed because its passage was imperatively demanded. With Gov. Hoffman rests the responsibility of the failure of a million of people to travel through New York as rapidly as they could travel through London."—*New York Standard*.

"I met to-day Hon. Melville C. Smith, chief of the Arcade Railroad. Far from being discouraged, he told me that he was already planning to renew the contest, for the fourth time, next winter, as the Governor's objections were aimed rather at the details than the grand principle of the bill. Such sublime trust in the face of continued adversity would almost hallow and make worthy to succeed even a bad cause. *Vive Smith of the Arcade!*"—*Syracuse Courier*.

We add a few of the closing paragraphs of an elaborate report, made, as will be noticed, by a large number of the most eminent engineers in the country:—

"It provides complete accommodation for through and way transit of passengers and freight between the extreme limits of the island and along its main artery.

"It furnishes an arcade avenue and promenade, well lighted and ventilated, convenient for pedestrians at all times, and with special advantages, in warm, cold, or stormy weather.

"It can be constructed without interruption either to the travel on the street or the convenient use of the buildings adjacent, and without endangering any of the struc-



tures along the street, and with arrangements for a better location of the water and gas pipes and sewers than now exists.

"The route selected, namely, that along Broadway, is determined by the topography of the island.

"It in no case occupies or injures any private property, but in nearly all cases greatly enhances the value of the property along its route.

"There are no difficulties attending the construction of the work which can not be overcome with engineering skill, and at a comparatively moderate cost.

"Finally, it meets a necessity in the most complete and unobjectionable manner

"(Signed)

"GEORGE B. McCLELLAN,

JOHN B. JARVIS,

"WILLIAM J. McALPINE,

SILAS SEYMOUR,

"EGBERT L. VIELE,

CHARLES H. HASWELL,

"JULIUS W. ADAMS,

H. G. WRIGHT,

"SYLVANUS H. SWEET,

JOHN NEWTON."

"I. F. QUINBY,

Another report, still more elaborate, and made by a board of engineers of equal eminence and ability, closes as follows:—

"Eighty millions of people cross the ferries annually to the lower end of the island, and two hundred millions come on railways and steamers. It is for this great multitude, and the myriads who for years to come will throng the busy marts of the world's great metropolis, that we are to provide. What the Erie Canal was to the Empire State; what the Pacific Railway will be to the continent; what the Atlantic cable is to the world—great necessities of modern civilization—such will the Arcade Railway be to the city of New York! And when it shall have been completed, and thronged through all the hours of the day and night, instead of being regarded as singular in conception, and a wonder in execution, the only marvel will be why it was not done before."

The foregoing comparatively few and brief extracts, bear evidence of the importance of this great undertaking, and the wonderful energy and consummate ability displayed by Mr. Smith in its management. In a contest where there are so many elements of prejudice, political chicanery, and financial interests, real and imaginary, to contend with, the result is, of course, problematical; but whatever may be the ultimate fate of the enterprise, the wonders already accomplished demonstrate that its projector is a success.

In *personnel* Mr. Smith is five feet ten inches high, and weighs about one hundred and sixty pounds; has light complexion, brown hair, and a clear, penetrating blue eye, expressive of great earnestness and sincerity.

In this brief sketch we have been able to give only a mere outline of the characteristics of Mr. Smith, with comparatively few of the important incidents of his life, and even these so incomplete in detail as to detract much from their significance. The thoughtful reader, however, cannot be otherwise than impressed that it is a description of a remarkable man. If any part of it shall appear to the casual reader highly colored or extravagant, it will be received far otherwise by those who know him best. To the writer of this sketch, who has enjoyed his intimate acquaintance from boyhood, it falls far short of expressing the power and possibilities of his nature.

A man's life is so largely influenced by circumstances, that time alone can tell to what degree his real qualities will be externalized and developed to the understanding of his fellows. Only the unwritten history which shall be revealed in the world to come, will tell with unerring accuracy of the many really great, whose journey through life has never made manifest their natural superiority. History is crowded with achievements which were hardly indicated in the earlier careers of its illustrious men; and among those of our own times, including our present President and most of his predecessors, there was little in their early life foreshadowing the successes in store for them; and we write these closing lines of our friend, whom we so much respect and venerate, in the firm conviction that, if reasonably favored of fortune, he will more than verify our highest words of appreciation. Certainly, if fidelity to friends and kindness to all; great earnestness and even greater patience; high moral convictions and indomitable will; clearness and comprehensiveness of intellect; strength and consistency of character, combined with "strong passions under strong control, constitute greatness," then is Melville C. Smith truly one of the world's great men.














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